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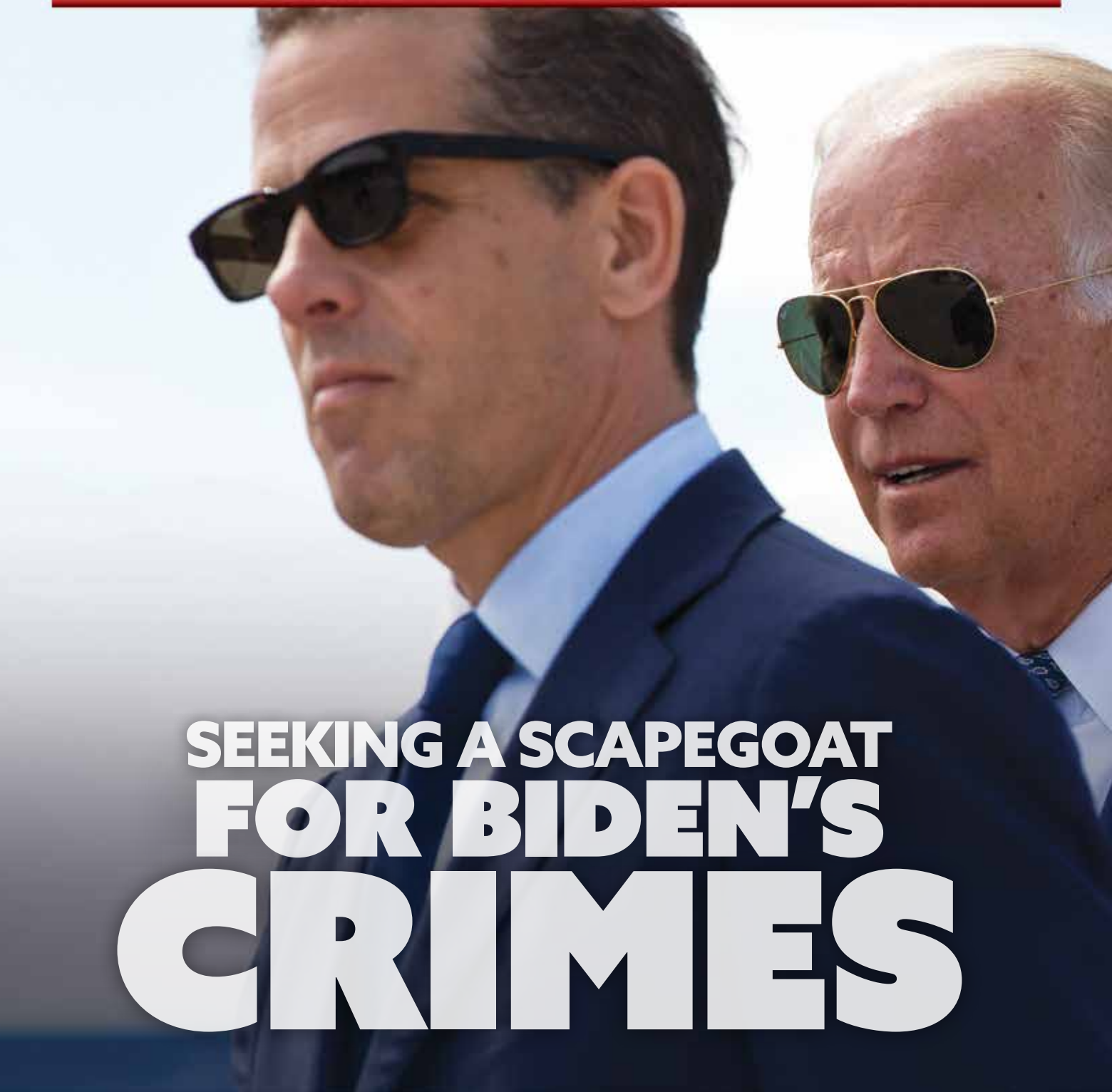

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Words Corrupting Society

It has been observed that language is corrupted to attain a specific political end. By changing the meaning of words commonly used in the past to control the people who must now use them, such words have been weaponized by the Left.

The weaponized words include bipartisanship, reproductive rights, choice, identity, sexual orientation, progress, fairness, committed relationship, trans, climate, offended, outraged, homeless, health, world citizen, dignity, free, common sense gun laws, activist, moderate, living constitution, working across the aisle, same sex, safe sex, mainstream, homophobe, Islamophobe, white privilege, hate speech, gender, transgender, gay, advocate, offensive, recreational, collaboration, oppressed, repressed, indigenous, adult films, compromise, multicultural, environment, undocumented, community, green, visionary, global, consensus, change agent, equity, inequity, moderate, transformational, and the always reliable dead mules of double speak: diversity and tolerance.

Historic words are now used and understood in an almost opposite way from their original meanings to instead produce revolutionary emotionalism and monothought. This is why Adolf Hitler, quintessential socialist and a leading light on the Left, had a formal propaganda ministry. Bent language produces bent minds.

Mike Goodpaster
Washougal, Washington

Manners Matter

For eons humans have drifted into eras of hedonism, and great civilizations have been destroyed. Humans need a code of morals to guide them to conciliation.

Morality need not be religious. It can entail social conduct, or cultural conduct, but it cannot be hedonistic conduct.

Humans have had enough time to learn what matters but veer away from what's important in life. When will humans learn what is good for them, and what makes life worthwhile?

Today it is money, sex, drugs, owning stuff, and mindlessness. This is an era of the educated dolt.

It should be obvious to anyone who looks that morals matter. Manners matter. Kindness matters. Civility matters. Fairness matters. I have been looking high and low for any of these, but I am coming up empty.

D.I. Larson
Ocala, Florida

They Go Unpunished

This country has laws against inciting to riot or inciting to do violence. So why are the laws not being enforced? Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) has incited her followers to cause disruption and harm against conservatives and the presidential staff. George Soros has paid demonstrators to riot and protest, and in the process, they have done harm. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) has encouraged Trump's detractors to use acts of intimidation against the president's supporters.

These people have driven conservatives out of restaurants, caused damage to property, disturbed the peace, and committed other crimes. Why is it that there has not been any prosecution of these instigators? These are real crimes with real evidence. Where is the justice?

William F. Hineser, DPM
Arvada, Colorado

Control for Gun Controllers

I have an absolute solution to safe gun control: All people, elected and appointed, who have anything to do with gun control and cause laws to be passed and actions taken that would restrict law-abiding U.S. citizens from owning, possessing, or controlling any type of firearm should be barred from owning or possessing a gun or having any armed bodyguards to "protect" them or their families!

This would make the anti-gun crowd more aware of the facts showing that legally armed citizens deter crime and that the more restrictions put on gun possession by legal citizens, the more crime there is! The criminal element doesn't pay any attention to the gun laws anyway!

John L. Galbreath
Mt. Sterling, Ohio

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Ray & Carol Clark

Study Shows High Cholesterol May Help You Live LONGER

A new analysis is turning diet doctrine on its head. As *American Thinker's* Thomas Lifson reported October 25, "High cholesterol, particularly LDL cholesterol, has been demonized for allegedly bringing on heart attack deaths. But an intriguing analysis of data published at Medium.com September 26 seems to show that total mortality risk is reduced by high cholesterol levels, even LDL cholesterol."

The point Medium.com's P.D. Mangan makes is that even if lower cholesterol is associated with reduced heart-disease incidence, this is more than offset by an increase in low-cholesterol-associated health risks.

As Mangan puts it, from "a public health standpoint, it seems a mistake to focus on changing something that lowers the risk of death from one cause only to raise that risk from another."

Mangan provides three charts illustrating the data. He also lists a number of possible reasons for the findings:

Cholesterol may protect against infections and atherosclerosis.

Cholesterol may protect against cancer.

A strong association was found between low cholesterol and violence. Odds ratio of violence for cholesterol of <180 mg/dl was 15.49.

Several studies have found an association between low cholesterol and suicide. For instance, one study found that those in the lowest quartile (fourth) of cholesterol concentration had more than six times the risk of suicide as those in the highest quartile.

"People feasting on bacon and eggs or Kobe beef are unlikely to kill themselves or anyone else, all right," Lifson concludes, because they're busy napping.

Joking aside, Lifson makes the point that coming "on top of the news that eggs are good for you, and so is butter, while the trans fats in margarine make it unhealthy, this suggests that nutrition experts cannot be trusted, for they don't know nearly as much as they pretend to know — with implications not just for global warming, but for the populist movement in general, rebelling against the educated professional and academic classes" that control advanced economies.

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France Could Be Five Years From Immigration-caused Anarchy

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With France dodging another bullet and intelligence agencies foiling a 9/11-style plot, French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner admits that "60 attacks have been foiled since 2013 and every week people are arrested." It's yet another reminder why his predecessor warned that within five years France could face an "irreversible" situation that leads to the country's break-up.

While Castaner won't and doesn't say it, *Jihad Watch* pointed out October 21 that "there is no doubt" these "foiled attacks are by jihadis." Yet what Castaner did admit brings to mind a warning by his predecessor, Gérard Collomb, now mayor of Lyon. As Collomb stated in an interview last year, "It's very worrying. What I read every morning in notes from the police reflects a very pessimistic situation. The relations between people are very hard, people don't want to live together…. Communities in France are engaging in conflict with one another more and more and it's becoming very violent…. I don't want to create fear, but I think there's very little time left…. It's difficult to estimate, but I would say that within five years the situation could become irreversible. Yes, we have five, six years to avoid the worst. Afterwards…"

The issue is that Muslims now constitute approximately nine percent of France's population, are generally of immigrant origin, and often don't assimilate well. In fact, they're sometimes concentrated in areas known informally as "no-go zones," places where civil law has broken down and, to an extent, has been supplanted by sharia law.

Collomb also predicted that a French civil war could occur in the near future, and author Christian de Moliner actually proposed in 2017 what Collomb fears in order to avoid one: "dividing" France by creating a sharia-oriented state within it, where Muslims who so choose could live by the Koran.

"We can never put the toothpaste back in the tube and convert the 30 percent of Muslims who demand the introduction of sharia to ... our democracy," de Moliner said. "We will never be able to eradicate radical Islamism."

Latino-owned Businesses Prospering Under Trump Economic Policies

Several recent news reports have noted that Latino-owned small businesses have been thriving under the economic policies implemented by the Trump administration. The source for these articles was an October 14 report compiled by Biz2Credit, which periodically publishes research studies.

Biz2Credit's recent report noted that the average revenue of Latino-owned businesses improved 46.5 percent in 2019, increasing to $479,413 from $327,189 in 2018. Furthermore, the number of credit applications from Latino-owned businesses increased by 23 percent over the past 12 months.

The report quoted Rohit Arora, CEO of Biz2Credit, who oversaw the research.

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"Latino-owned businesses have grown 31.6% since 2012, and our research finds that revenues of Latino-owned companies jumped 23% from 2017-18," said Arora, "Latino businesses are thriving and expanding, and they help contribute to the overall strength of the U.S. economy."

Also quoted in the report was Manuel Chinea, COO of Popular Bank. "The growth of Latino businesses is undeniable and will undoubtedly increase as this important group becomes a larger section of the population," said Chinea. "By 2050, Latinos are expected to comprise almost 30 percent of the population, compared to 18 percent today."

An article in the *New York Post* on October 19 cited Biz2Credit's study and also quoted Kenia Castillo, a Dominican native with a bachelor's degree in accounting who operates a restaurant in the Inwood neighborhood of Manhattan.

"This is the American Dream for us," Castillo told the *Post.* "We keep getting busier and are now looking at expansion." She added, "Yes, conditions are certainly better for our community than a generation or so ago."

Labor Department statistics indicate that the less-than-five-percent unemployment rate among Hispanics is now the lowest ever recorded. In stark contrast, this level of unemployment is less than half the unemployment rate for Hispanics during Obama's second term.

San Francisco Blacklists 22 States Over Pro-life Laws

The city of San Francisco is forbidding city employees from making work-related trips to 22 states that have passed measures protecting the unborn — or as the city refers to them, "restrictive abortion laws."

In a joint statement, Mayor London Breed and Vallie Brown, a member of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, announced that the city would no longer conduct business with the states because of their "severe anti-choice" policies.

"Every day in this country, women's reproductive rights are threatened, and we have to fight back," declared Breed on October 16. "Just as we restricted spending with states that have laws that discriminate against LGBTQ people, we are standing up against states that put women's health at risk and that are actively working to limit reproductive freedoms."

Brown claimed that "by restricting travel to states with restrictive abortion laws and that limit access to reproductive health, we are showing our commitment to women, trans men, and nonbinary people in San Francisco and across the country."

The states on the city's latest ban, which will go into effect January 1, 2020, are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Nine of those states had already been blacklisted by San Francisco for their policies and laws that supposedly discriminate against LGBTQ individuals. Those states are Alabama, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas.

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Each of the states on the latest ban list has outlawed abortion at between 13 and 24 weeks of a woman's pregnancy, while five have attempted to block abortions at six weeks.

In response to the ban, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts tweeted that "Nebraska is a proudly #prolife state, and this demonstrates shocking intolerance by coastal elites that is divisive to our nation." ■

NBA Executive's Tweet Becomes an International Incident

"Fight for freedom. Stand with Hong Kong."

On October 4, Houston Rockets General Manager **Daryl Morey's** *very brief message sent via Twitter expressed his support for the demonstrators in Hong Kong. In a clear example of totalitarian control over what should be free speech, the Chinese Communist government protested vehemently. Morey removed the message but was not forced to repudiate what he said by NBA brass. Beijing's leaders then cancelled a televised airing in China of exhibition games involving two NBA teams in China.*

Daryl Morey

AP Images

Sanders Back on the Campaign Trail After Suffering a Heart Attack

"To put it bluntly, I'm back."

Two and a half weeks after having stents inserted in his heart, Senator **Bernie Sanders** *appeared at a rally in New York City and claimed that he was as healthy as ever. During the event held on October 19, he accepted endorsement for his candidacy from Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who appeared on stage alongside the Vermont senator.*

Hillary Clinton

GageSkidmore

Hillary Clinton Claims Tulsi Gabbard Is Russia's Favorite in U.S. Election

"They're also going to do third party again. And I'm not making any predictions, but I think [the Russians have] their eye on somebody who is currently in the Democratic primary and are grooming her to be the third-party candidate. She's a favorite of the Russians. They have a bunch of sites and bots and other ways of supporting her so far."

Without mentioning Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard by name, **Hillary Clinton** *made obvious who she was talking about during an interview conducted by former Obama campaign manager David Plouffe. The loser to Donald Trump in the 2016 election, Clinton is clearly making herself available to run in 2020 should the Democratic Party find a need to coalesce behind a candidate.*

Columnist Believes Impeachment of the President Would Be a Serious Mistake

"Impeachment would be an uplifting exercise if we had sober leaders who could put party affiliation aside and impartially weigh the evidence. It would be workable if Congress enjoyed broad public affection and legitimacy. We don't live in that world. [Impeachment] would be a mistake."

New York Times *columnist* **David Brooks** *believes the Democrats' current impeachment campaign is an "inside-the Beltway political brawl" that will help Donald Trump get reelected.*

Washington Post Heavyweight Says Biden Can't Win in 2020

"There's a reason he hasn't won the nomination before, and won't this time, and it's not just because of his running gaffe track or that he's alienated so many core Democratic constituencies. It's that not enough voters get really enthusiastic about him personally."

The managing editor of "The Monkey Cage" section of the Washington Post*,* **E. J. Graff** *strongly urges Democrats to choose Senator Elizabeth Warren, the candidate he describes as a "passionate crusader," not a "safe candidate" such as Joe Biden.*

Wisdom Issued in the Past

"Political language … is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

Although he stated this comment many years ago, political commentator **George Orwell** *beautifully summarized what many current politicians repeatedly provide the public today.* ■

— By John F. McManus

George Orwell

SEEKING A SCAPEGOAT FOR BIDEN'S CRIMES

Joe Biden used the vice presidency to halt a criminal investigation into a company that hired his son. Now Democrats are pushing impeachment to derail more Biden findings.

by C. Mitchell Shaw

Democrats have shown great concern about even the possibility that there are connections between foreign powers and those in seats of power within our federal government. That "concern" has been demonstrated by Democrats going so far as to conduct a thus-far endless stream of investigations, probes, and inquiries that have hung like a shadow over every day of Donald Trump's presidency. But that concern is pretend, rather than genuine. In this case, the estrangement between "Democrats" and "genuine" is illustrated by the simple fact that their alleged concern does not extend to one of their own, despite his clear connections to a foreign power.

In fact, rather than investigate the apparent shady dealings with Ukraine of former vice president and current presidential hopeful Joe Biden and his son Hunter, Democrats used the scandal to (once again) attempt to turn the tables and dump the whole thing squarely in the lap of President Trump. Blaming Trump for his appropriate response to Biden's inappropriate actions, Democrats claim that the president's actions are grounds for impeachment.

As we will demonstrate, all available evidence shows it was not the president's response that crossed ethical and possibly legal lines. Instead it was actions of both Joe and Hunter Biden that crossed those lines.

Once again, all of this seems more than a bit familiar. Like the Russia collusion narrative that Democrats created out of thin air to take the public eye off Hillary Clinton's illegal e-mail system and evidence of her accepting bribes by foreign powers, the Ukraine corruption angle is just another example of Democrats manufacturing supposedly illegal behavior.

While there certainly was collusion between Russia and someone in a seat of power within our federal government, it simply wasn't Donald Trump or anyone associated with his candidacy — unless that association is expanded to include his opponent and former secretary of state, Hillary Clinton.

Considering the rank corruption and quid pro quo of the pay-for-play policies of Hillary Clinton's State Department during her tenure as secretary of state, "col-

AP Images

Beneficiaries of Russian bucks: While Democrats have made much ado about the spectre of Trump-Russia collusion, it was actually Hillary Clinton and her Democratic National Committee cronies who colluded with Russia in the UraniumOne scheme.

"Suffice to say, Hunter Biden has no background in Ukraine," stated Schweizer. "He has no background in energy policy. There's really no legitimate explanation as to why he got this deal with this energy company."

lusion" is definitely an appropriate word to describe the UraniumOne scandal. In that underhanded scheme, a Russian state-owned company acquired between 20 and 25 percent of U.S. uranium reserves while the coffers of the Clinton Foundation were stuffed with $145 million in "donations" (read: bribes) from those involved on the Russian side of the deal.

Four years later, as it became apparent that Donald Trump could give Clinton a run for her money in the 2016 election, Democrats accused *him* of colluding with Russia, despite lacking any evidence to back up their claims.

This is the same gambit all over again. No investigation of those who were *actually* involved in wrongdoing, but an all-in approach to investigating Trump.

The Biden/Ukraine Connection

In 2014, while his father was Obama's vice president, Hunter Biden landed an undeservedly lucrative job with Ukrainian company Burisma Holdings.

Mykola Zlochevsky, a former minister of ecology and natural resources for Ukraine, owned the company that in turn owns Burisma Holdings. Zlochevsky began to be investigated for using his position as minister of ecology and natural resources to illegally issue oil and gas licenses to companies that he owned, including Burisma Holdings, from 2010 to 2012. After the 2014 Ukrainian revolution, Zlochevsky fled the country ahead of charges of corruption and money laundering. He is reported to be living in Monaco and still owns Burisma Holdings.

The charges against Zlochevsky appear well-founded: In April 2018, the *Kyiv Post* reported on the release of a recording from January 2016, implicating then-Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Zlochevsky in graft related to those oil and gas licenses.

Hunter Biden served on the board of Burisma Holdings from 2014 until his term expired in April 2019. As the *New York Times* reported, Hunter Biden was paid "as much as $50,000 per month in some months" as a board member of Burisma Holdings. In another report — this one from Breitbart — Peter Schweizer, president of the Government Accountability Institute and senior editor-at-large at Breitbart, revealed that "U.S. banking records show Hunter Biden's American-based firm, Rosemont Seneca Partners LLC, received regular transfers into one of its accounts — usually more than $166,000 a month — from Burisma from spring 2014 through fall 2015, during a period when Vice President Biden was the main U.S. official dealing with Ukraine and its tense relations with Russia." In fact, those bank records show that over a 14-month period, Burisma Holdings paid $3.1 million into an account for Hunter Biden.

That is a lot of money for someone to be paid for merely sitting on the board of an oil and gas company. Given that Hunter Biden's professional expertise is in lobbying and investments, with a focus on helping foreign powers make inroads in the United States, his lucrative board position with Burisma Holdings is suspicious. As Schweizer put it, "The bottom line is Joe Biden was the Obama administration's point-person on policy towards Ukraine. He steered $1.8 billion in aid to that government and while he was doing so, his son got a sweetheart deal with this energy company" in Ukraine.

"Suffice to say, Hunter Biden has no background in Ukraine," stated Schweizer. "He has no background in energy policy. There's really no legitimate explanation as to why he got this deal with this energy company, other than the fact his father was responsible for doling out money in Ukraine itself."

It appears Hunter Biden was employed based solely on the basis of his father's position as vice president and handler of Ukraine foreign relations. And it appears that plan paid off well for his employers when they were under investigation.

In 2016, while Burisma Holdings was being investigated by Ukraine, Joe Biden — in a clear case of abusing his official capacity as vice president of the United States — pressured Ukraine to fire the

chief prosecutor who was investigating Burisma Holdings and Zlochevsky. Biden was successful: The Ukrainian prosecutor general, Viktor Shokin, was removed from his position and the investigation went stagnant. The prosecutor was fired because Biden used economic blackmail to force the issue, threatening to withhold U.S. funds if he didn't get his way.

Biden even boasted of his success in getting Shokin fired. In a video widely available on YouTube, Biden can be seen telling his cohorts in the Council on Foreign Relations that he told Ukrainian officials point-blank that the price of not firing Shokin would be the loss of $1 billion in loan guarantees. "I said, 'I'm telling you, you're not getting the billion dollars.' I said, 'You're not getting the billion. I'm going to be leaving here in,' — I think it was about six hours." Biden then says the Ukrainians insisted that he lacked the authority to renege on a deal made by then-President Obama. Biden says he responded, "Call him" — implying that President Obama would back his decision to withhold the money unless Shokin were fired.

In the video, Biden goes on to brag, "I looked at them and said, 'I'm leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you're not getting the money.' Well, son of a b***h. He got fired. And they put in place someone who was solid, at the time." As we will show later, that new prosecutor has since lost his "solid" card for failing to do the bidding of Democrats in the Trump witch hunt.

Joe Biden, of course, claimed that he was doing his job and looking out for the interests of the United States and that his actions had nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that Hunter Biden was soon to be questioned as part of the Burisma Holdings scandal.

The facts are in conflict with Biden's claim that Shokin's firing was due to international pressure stemming from Shokin's refusal to pursue corruption among Ukraine's politicians. In fact, the truth is that Shokin was considered to be a stand-up prosecutor who went after crime with a diligence that is rare. Of course, Biden's claim is also contradicted by the fact that when he forced Shokin's firing, Shokin was in the very middle of doing exactly what Biden claims he was fired for not doing: investigating corruption involving government officials. *The Hill's* John Solomon reported, "Shokin told me in written answers to questions that, before he was fired as general prosecutor, he had made 'specific plans' for the investigation that 'included interrogations and other crime-investigation procedures into all members of the executive board, including Hunter Biden.'"

AP Images

Do you believe in coincidence? At the same time that Joe Biden was vice president and was responsible for doling out money to Ukraine, his son Hunter (shown) landed a lucrative board position with a Ukrainian oil and gas company owned by a crooked oligarch.

Biden's Lie Comes Unraveled

Biden's tale is continuing to unravel. Just days before this writing, a source told Sean Davis of the online magazine The Federalist that George Kent, deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, offered testimony to Congress that "directly contradicts claims that the Obama administration was merely following the lead of the so-called international community in demanding the firing" of Shokin.

And *The Hill* reported in late September that "hundreds of pages of never-released memos and documents — many from inside the American team helping Burisma to stave off its legal troubles — conflict with Biden's narrative." Furthermore, those now-disclosed documents "raise the troubling prospect that U.S. officials may have painted a false picture in Ukraine that helped ease Burisma's legal troubles and stop prosecutors' plans to interview Hunter Biden during the 2016 U.S. presidential election."

The Hill further reported that the documents show that

> Burisma's American legal representatives met with Ukrainian officials just days after Biden forced the firing of the country's chief prosecutor and offered "an apology for dissemination of false information by U.S. representatives and public figures" about the Ukrainian prosecutors, according to the Ukrainian government's official memo of the meeting. The effort to secure that meeting began the same day the prosecutor's firing was announced.

In short, Joe Biden and others in the Obama administration spread false information about a prosecutor who was about to question Biden's son — leading to his firing. The information they spread was so patently false that even the American

legal team representing the company that prosecutor was investigating felt the need to apologize for it. *The Hill* also reported that Ukrainian prosecutors say they have tried to get this information to the U.S. Department of Justice since the summer of 2018, believing it might be evidence of possible violations of U.S. ethics laws. After meeting one roadblock after another by the department, the Ukrainians reached out to President Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, bringing the information to President Trump's attention.

So Obama's vice president used his position to strong-arm a foreign power by threatening to withhold loan guarantees unless it fired the prosecutor who was investigating the illegal activities of a company that employed that vice president's son. This happened right at a time when that prosecutor's team wanted to interview the vice president's son. Then, that vice president openly bragged about it *on camera* to his globalist buddies, despite the fact that Burisma's American legal representatives had met already with Ukrainian officials to apologize for "dissemination of false information by U.S. representatives and public figures" (which included Vice President Biden) about that prosecutor. And Trump is the one being accused of wrongdoing for making a phone call and allegedly pressuring Ukraine to investigate this?

The Infamous Phone Call

Against the backdrop of Biden's Ukraine meddling — and likely prodded by the Russia collusion witch hunt — President Trump made the phone call that Democrats are now using as the *cause du jour* in their impeachment hearings. After all, since the Russia collusion narrative fell apart under its own bloated weight, they have to find *something* they can try to pin on him.

In July, President Trump called Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky to congratulate him on his party's victory in the Ukrainian parliament. In that conversation President Trump asked Zelensky to launch an investigation into allegations of Russian hacking of the DNC's servers during the 2016 election cycle. In the summer of 2016, a trove of embarrassing and damning DNC and Clinton campaign e-mails were leaked and were then published by WikiLeaks. WikiLeaks claimed that the e-mails were given to them by someone inside the DNC who had legitimate access to them. The DNC claimed the servers were hacked by Russian operatives.

The official investigation was handled largely by a company called Crowdstrike, which concluded that two groups affiliated with the Russian government were responsible for the attack. President Trump has repeatedly voiced his suspicions that the DNC withheld one server that may have had information about who was actually responsible for the leaked e-mails. President Trump also asked Zelensky to speak to some people here in the United States about the investigation into Burisma Holdings and the firing of Shokin.

Here is the relevant portion of that phone call, from the official transcript:

> Trump: I would like you to do us a favor though because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it. I would like you to find out what happened with this whole situation with Ukraine, they say Crowdstrike... I guess you have one of your wealthy people... The server, they say Ukraine has it. There are a lot of things that went on, the whole situation. I think you're surrounding yourself with some of the same people. I would like to have the attorney general call you or your people and I would like you to get to the bottom of it. As you saw yesterday [a reference to the end of the Mueller probe], that whole nonsense ended with a very poor performance by a man named Robert Mueller, an incompetent performance, but they say a lot of it started with Ukraine. Whatever you can do, it's very important that you do it if that's possible.
>
> Zelenskyy [this is the way his name is spelled in the transcript]: Yes it is. Very important for me and everything that you just mentioned earlier. For me as a president, it is very important, and we are open for any future cooperation. We are ready to open a new page on cooperation in relations between the United States and Ukraine. For that purpose, I just recalled our ambassador from United States and he will be replaced by a very competent and very experienced ambassador who will work hard on making sure that our two nations are

Newscom

A Biden on his shoulder: Mykola Zlochevsky (shown) — Hunter Biden's boss — was under investigation for money laundering and corruption. Joe Biden leveraged U.S. foreign aid to Ukraine to make sure that the prosecutor in charge of that investigation was fired.

AP Images

Letting the dirty cat out of the bag: Joe Biden said — on camera — that he told Ukrainian officials that President Obama would back his threat to withhold $1 billion in loan guarantees unless the prosecutor overseeing the Burisma Holdings investigation was fired.

getting closer. I would also like and hope to see him having your trust and your confidence and have personal relations with you so we can cooperate even more so. I will personally tell you that one of my assistants spoke with Mr. Giuliani just recently and we are hoping very much that Mr. Giuliani will be able to travel to Ukraine and we will meet once he comes to Ukraine. I just wanted to assure you once again that you have nobody but friends around us. I will make sure that I surround myself with the best and most experienced people. I also wanted to tell you that we are friends. We are great friends and you, Mr. President, have friends in our country so we can continue our strategic partnership. I also plan to surround myself with great people and in addition to that investigation, I guarantee as the president of Ukraine that all the investigations will be done openly and candidly. That I can assure you.

Trump: Good because I heard you had a prosecutor who was very good and he was shut down and that's really unfair. A lot of people are talking about that, the way they shut your very good prosecutor down and you had some very bad people involved. Mr. Giuliani is a highly respected man. He was the mayor of New York City, a great mayor, and I would like him to call you. I will ask him to call you along with the attorney general. Rudy very much knows what's happening, and he is a very capable guy. If you could speak to him that would be great. The former ambassador from the United States, the woman, was bad news and the people she was dealing with in the Ukraine were bad news so I just want to let you know that. The other thing, there's a lot of talk about Biden's son, that Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that so whatever you can do with the attorney general would be great. Biden went around bragging that he stopped the prosecution so if you can look into it... It sounds horrible to me.

Zelenskyy: I wanted to tell you about the prosecutor. First of all I understand and I'm knowledgeable about the situation. Since we have won the absolute majority in our Parliament; the next prosecutor general will be 100 percent my person, my candidate, who will be approved by the parliament and will start as a new prosecutor in September. He or she will look into the situation, specifically to the company that you mentioned in this issue. The issue of the investigation of the case is actually the issue of making sure to restore the honesty so we will take care of that and will work on the investigation of the case. On top of that, I would kindly ask you if you have any additional information that you can provide to us, it would be very helpful for the investigation to make sure that we administer justice in our country with regard to the ambassador to the United States from Ukraine as far as I recall her name was Ivanovich. It was great that you were the first one who told me that she was a bad ambassador because I agree with you 100 percent. Her attitude towards me was far from the best as she admired the previous president and she was on his side. She would not accept me as a new president well enough.

Trump: Well, she's going to go through some things. I will have Mr. Giuliani give you a call and I am also going to have Attorney General Barr call, and we will get to the bottom of it. I'm sure you will figure it out. I heard the prosecutor was treated very badly and he was a very fair prosecutor so good luck with everything. Your economy is going to get better and better, I predict. You have a lot of assets. It's a great country. I have many Ukrainian friends, they're incredible people.

Feel free to read over that again. Did you find the "smoking gun"? Neither did anyone else. Because it's not there. Like the Russia collusion narrative, the only people who believe there is anything here are those who decided ahead of time to project their dark wishes into this.

Cause for Impeachment?

For instance, Nancy Pelosi — before even seeing the transcript — called it grounds for impeachment. Adam Schiff — who has a propensity to shoot off his mouth without first loading it with anything resembling facts — said Trump's

call "may very well have crossed the Rubicon" and claimed that "reports that Trump in the July 25 call asked President Volodymyr Zelensky to reopen an investigation into a company tied to Joe Biden's son could lead to congressional action," according to a report by Newsmax. Other Democrats and their accomplices in the liberal mainstream media described it as a "crime" and an example of quid pro quo.

When a "whistleblower" claimed in late September that the president attempted "to press Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden's son ahead of the 2020 presidential election," according to the *Washington Times*, Democrats went apoplectic. The White House was accused of a coverup, the director of national intelligence (DNI) was accused of a crime for "preventing" that "whistleblower" from presenting his "complaint" to Congress, and President Donald Trump was accused of impeachable crimes.

Of course, none of those claims had a shred of merit. The "whistleblower" was nothing of the sort. As the transcript shows, the account of that phone call offered by the whistleblower bears little resemblance to the actual phone call. The DNI did not prevent anyone from doing anything. He simply followed his job description and the law, and did not — *could* not — "bring the information to Congress because the White House cited executive privilege over the phone call," according to a report by the *Washington Times.* And there was no White House "coverup," since even though Trump cited executive privilege (which is within his power), he never "instructed" DNI Joseph Maguire "to withhold the information," according to a report by the *Washington Times.*

Then, at the height of the Democrats' frenzy, President Trump released the transcript, and the proverbial excrement hit the rotating blades. Because, as seen above, there simply is no quid pro quo to be found anywhere in the conversation. There is nothing more than a head of state asking another head of state to investigate crimes that affect both of their countries.

Compared to Biden's actions, President Trump's call to Zelensky stands out in sharp contrast. Biden's manipulation of Ukraine's internal policies certainly smacks of quid pro quo. After all, Biden — by his own boastful admission — held a $1 billion payout against Ukraine and forced his will over Ukraine's legitimate interests to protect his son's employer from being investigated. Donald Trump acted with diplomacy for the better interests of both countries. He demanded nothing. He threatened nothing. He promised nothing.

As the transcript shows, the account of that phone call offered by the whistleblower bears little resemblance to the actual phone call.

AP Images

Plans thwarted: Viktor Shokin (shown) has stated that just before he was fired, he had made "specific plans" to interrogate "all members of the executive board [of Burisma Holdings], including Hunter Biden."

Alright for Us, Impeachable Crime for You

And — just to put in the for-what-it's-worth column — Democrats have done exactly what they claim Trump has done and for which they are seeking impeachment. The difference is that they actually did it and there is no evidence that he did.

In the 2016 election cycle, the Clinton campaign and DNC hired Christopher Steele to gather "intelligence" from foreign sources as part of an opposition research initiative. For the sake of this article, this writer will set aside the fact that the Steele "dossier" turned out to be a fabrication with no basis in fact. The point is that Clinton and her cronies used information ostensibly gathered from Russian intelligence agents to drum up the Trump/Russia collusion narrative.

And — closer to this article's subject matter — in May 2018, three Democrat senators — Bob Menendez (N.J.), Dick Durbin (Ill.) and Patrick Leahy (Vt.) — sent a letter to Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko (Biden's "solid, at the time" prosecutor) pressing his office to cooperate with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into the bogus allegations of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. That letter sounds eerily like Biden's statement that got Lutsenko's predecessor fired. The letter begins by reminding Lutsenko of all the

United States has done for Ukraine in the form of foreign aid and then implies that for that aid to continue, it would be a good idea for Ukraine to assist in the Mueller investigation. Citing an article in the *New York Times* that Lutsenko's office "effectively froze investigations into four open cases in Ukraine" that Democrats believed would help their case against Trump, the letter states, "If these reports are true, we strongly encourage you to reverse course and halt any efforts to impede cooperation with this important investigation."

The Steele "dossier," this letter, and Biden's bragging on camera about getting Shokin fired show that Democrats use foreign powers for their own political purposes and are not above using threats connected to American foreign aid to force their will. The official transcript of the call between Trump and Zelensky shows that — at least in this case — Trump did not do any of that. And despite investigations spanning his entire presidency, nothing else shows that he has. Period.

AP Images

Phoniness: Based on his July 25 phone call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (shown), President Trump has been accused of offering a quid pro quo and pressuring Ukraine to investigate Joe and Hunter Biden. But the transcript of that call shows that is just another lie.

If You Can't Beat Him, Impeach Him

One might expect that the release of the transcript of Trump's call would have silenced the droning demands for Trump's impeachment over the call to Zelensky, but that would be expecting reasonableness from people who have shown that they have not even a passing acquaintance with reason.

Instead, Democrats have doubled down in a full-court press for impeachment. And little wonder — a report by Moody Analytics, a national research firm, shows that Trump is headed for another landslide victory in 2020. The report states: "The 2020 election looks like Trump's to lose," owing largely to the improved economy under his policies. The report goes on to say, "If voters were to vote primarily on the basis of their pocketbooks, the president would steamroll the competition." Democrats seem to be caught between a rock and a hard place. The previously unattractive prospect of spending what little political capital they have left to attempt an impeachment against President Trump has now become their best bet. In essence, the new Democrat mantra appears to be, "If you can't beat him, impeach him."

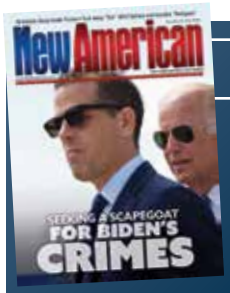
Except that the Democrats' impeachment gambit is very likely to backfire on them. First of all, they don't have a case. The Constitution lays out very specific criteria for impeachment — and nothing the Democrats have cooked up against Trump even comes close to reaching that standard. Second, even if the Democrat-majority House votes for impeachment, driven by its hatred of the president and party politics, it is highly unlikely the Republican-majority Senate would vote to convict. Trump would still be president and would benefit from a backlash against the Democrats' abuse of the impeachment power. The entire ugly episode will likely end up being an exercise in futility and an illustration of the desperation of a party that knows it is beat and simply won't admit it.

Media Complicity

Part of that refusal to face the facts and admit the truth arises from the assist Democrats are receiving from their partners in crime in the liberal mainstream media. The media's constant din of impeachment reporting — mostly depicting impeachment as a foregone conclusion — is both deafening and mind-numbing. As part of that, that same liberal media has been almost universal in downplaying Hunter Biden's connections to a corrupt former Ukrainian politician and his father's improper and likely illegal intervention.

One notable exception to that rule has been Joan Vennochi, who writes a column for the *Boston Globe*. Even as her comrades in politics and media continue to pretend that President Trump's appropriate response to the Bidens' inappropriate actions should be grounds for impeachment, Vennochi — who has never attempted to hide her disdain for Trump — wrote, "What exactly was Biden's son Hunter doing in that foreign country and why was he hired to do it? These are fair questions, which the media would never stop asking if the son under scrutiny happened to be Donald Trump, Jr."

Exactly. ■



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Globalists Gang-tackle TRUMP

CFR President Richard Haass is leading a chorus of "experts," media commentators, and neocon Republicans who are condemning President Trump's efforts to end our endless wars.

DepartmentofDefense

Lovefest/Hatefest: President Obama enjoyed undiluted media ardor even as he unconstitutionally took the United States to war in Syria and illegally supported ISIS terrorists. But the Deep State media war on President Trump intensified when he announced the U.S. withdrawal from Syria.

by William F. Jasper

In January 2019, President Donald Trump declared that America must "stop the endless wars." And he announced that, in keeping with his campaign pledges, he would begin pulling U.S. forces out of Syria. Finally, in October, he began making good on the promise, only to be hammered by his usual critics in the media, the foreign policy establishment, and the War Party in Congress (the coalition of Democrats and Republicans who can be relied on to support U.S. involvement in any war, anywhere, any time).

"I held off this fight for almost 3 years, but it is time for us to get out of these ridiculous Endless Wars, many of them tribal, and bring our soldiers home," the president tweeted on October 7. "WE WILL FIGHT WHERE IT IS TO OUR BENEFIT, AND ONLY FIGHT TO WIN. Turkey, Europe, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Russia and the Kurds will now have to figure the situation out, and what they want to do with the captured ISIS fighters in their 'neighborhood,'" he continued. "They all hate ISIS, have been enemies for years. We are 7000 miles away and will crush ISIS again if they come anywhere near us!"

The response of the Nancy Pelosi-run War Party in the House of Representatives was to pass a resolution condemning President Trump's withdrawal of troops from Syria. The resolution, sponsored by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) and the committee's top Republican, Representative Michael McCaul (Texas), was overwhelmingly approved on

October 16 by a vote of 354 to 60, with four members voting "present." All 60 votes against the resolution came from Republicans, but 129 Republicans joined all of the House Democrats in sending the rebuke to President Trump. Republicans in the Senate held off a vote on the same measure.

In addition to the resolution, members of Congress from both parties have mobbed the news programs and talk shows to denounce the Syrian withdrawal as "shameful," "terrible," "disgraceful," "disastrous," and "a betrayal." Senator Mitt Romney (R-Utah), a globalist and longtime Trump critic, harshly condemned the move as "a bloodstain in the annals of American history."

The House vote and its attendant media spectacle underscores once again the ability of the Deep State and its Fake News Media allies to set the dials and call the tunes that the weak-minded and corrupt will dance to. Whether or not they realize it, the opponents of the Syrian troop withdrawal are merely mouthing the regurgitation fodder that is being fed to them by the ventriloquists at the Council on Foreign Relations and its globalist adjuncts, who are demanding a continuation of their Orwellian "Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace" program.

"The High Price of Trump's Great Betrayal." That's the title of an October 17 syndicated column by Richard N. Haass. Who is Haass? Regular readers of The New American know that he is an outspoken opponent of national sovereignty and the president of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the premier brain trust of the Deep State that has dominated American politics for much of the past century. Haass was sitting on the stage with then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when she cooed to an assembly of CFR notables that she was so pleased the Council's New York City-based "mother ship" had set up offices in Washington, D.C., because, as a result, she wouldn't have so far to go "to be told what we should be doing and how we should think."

Together with Secretaries of State Clinton and John Kerry, Haass and the rest of the CFR-led foreign policy establishment crafted and supported the Obama administration's disastrous Middle East policies that have caused the region's upheaval, as well as President Obama's illegal and unconstitutional war in Syria. Now the globalist choir, led by choirmaster Haass, is condemning President Trump for attempting to make good on his oft-repeated promise to stop American involvement in "endless wars" and "bring our soldiers home." According to Haass, the president's Syria move "was a terrible one."

"President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw American forces from northern Syria, and leave the region's Kurds vulnerable to neighboring Turkey's military incursion, was a terrible one," Haass asserted in his column. "The Kurdish forces in control of the region had been the principal US partner in the struggle against the Islamic State (ISIS)," he continues. "Trump's abandonment of them reinforced already existing doubts in the region and around the world that the United States remains a reliable ally."

Then the CFR president gets on to the real target of his ire: Trump's "America First" policy, which Haass, the archetypal globalist, disingenuously derides as "isolationism."

"Trump's 'America First' slogan is premised on the idea that the costs of US world leadership far outweigh any benefits," complains Haass. Moreover, says the CFR chieftain — and this is his *real* concern — "Trump's decision taps into an old American tradition of isolationism, which has a lineage traceable to America's Founding Fathers." In addition, he states, "the notion that the US can safely turn its back on the world and still thrive even as global order declines is seriously misguided."

This treachery, lying, double-dealing, and coverup has been going on in Syria for more than five years. In truth, none of the warring parties in Syria can be considered "reliable allies" or noble partners worthy of the blood of American soldiers.

Betrayers "R" Us: Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) President Richard N. Haass (shown) called President Trump's Syria withdrawal a "betrayal," but CFR globalists have betrayed genuine U.S. allies for decades. Hillary Clinton said she looks to the CFR "to be told what we should be doing and how we should think."

The CFR Record: One Betrayal After Another

Before moving on to some of Haass's other specious claims, it may be worth-

while to dissect a few of his quotes above.

First of all, let's look at Trump's alleged "betrayal" of America's "reliable allies," the Kurds. It may be true that there are, indeed, some genuine American allies among the Kurds who have been fighting ISIS in Syria. However, the various "Kurdish forces" whom our Obama-era, CFR-run State Department and CIA selected to receive arms and training are hardcore communists and Islamists who can be counted on to turn on us, just as we have seen with our CFR-chosen "allies" in Egypt, Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In those conflicts, our CFR-laden State Department, Defense Department, and intelligence agencies have repeatedly engaged in a deadly game of musical chairs, arming and supporting ISIS, ISIL, al-Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood, al Nusra, the Taliban, the PKK-YPG-SDF, and many additional criminal, terrorist, Islamist, communist, anti-American groups and factions. It is worth noting that these are not simply "rightwing conspiracy theories"; plenty of top sources and documentation have proven this. The sources include top players in Obama's administration, including his vice president, Joe Biden; his Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, General Martin Dempsey; and his White House deputy national security advisor, Ben Rhodes.

Biden famously went off script in a 2014 speech at Harvard University during which he demolished the claim we were supporting Arab "moderates" and admitted that Obama's "anti-ISIS" coalition was actually supporting ISIS, ISIL, al-Qaeda, and al Nusra.

"The fact is, the ability to identify a moderate middle in Syria, um, was, uh — there was no moderate middle," Biden acknowledged. "What my constant cry was, that our biggest problem was our allies — our allies in the region were our largest problem," he went on, noting that "the people who were being supplied were Al Nusra and Al Qaeda and the extremist elements of jihadis coming from other parts of the world."

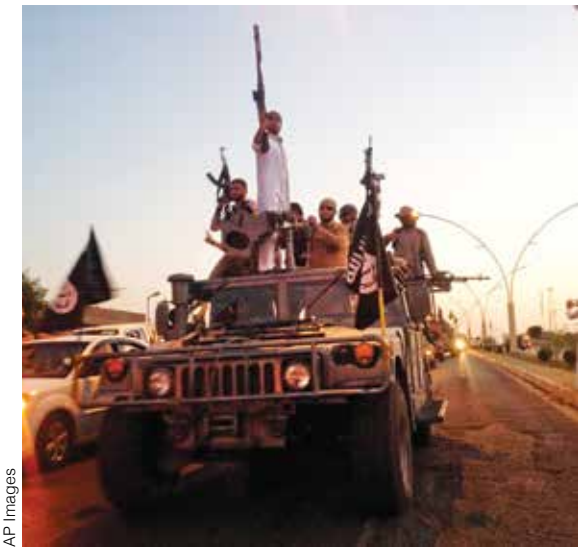
Biden was merely confirming what this magazine and other responsible media organs were reporting: that the CFR-led "war on terror" was a gigantic lie, that our nation's blood and treasure were being treasonously sacrificed to build what the globalists call their "new world order," an order that envisions a world government ruled by an internationalist elite. Biden's Harvard speech should have been immediate and ongoing front page news and the cause for a genuine congressional investigation. Instead, the Fake News Media buried it and told the American public, "Never mind. Nothing to see here. Move along." Ditto for the admissions against interest by General Dempsey and Ben Rhodes, as well as the revelations of government whistleblowers.

This treachery, lying, double-dealing, and coverup has been going on in Syria for more than five years. In truth, none of the warring parties in Syria can be considered "reliable allies" or noble partners worthy of the blood of American soldiers. Is it really in America's national interest to take sides in a conflict between the tyrannical regimes of Recep Erdoğan in Turkey and Bashar al-Assad in Syria? Is it in our "national interest," as Haass claims, to continue supporting the Kurdish forces fighting under the banner of the PKK/YPG/PYD/SDF, an umbrella communist terrorist organization that has been conducting a decades-long war of bombings, kidnappings, drug dealing, and assassinations?

Representative Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), one of 60 members of the House of Representatives to vote against the resolution condemning President Trump's removal of American troops from the Syrian conflict zone, noted about our Kurdish "allies":

> The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) is a militant group, designated by the United States and the European Union as a terrorist organization. The PKK is a coalition of Maoists, Marxist-Leninists and other Communists. While America shares a common enemy with the PKK — the Islamic State (ISIS) — the PKK doesn't share American ideals or have anything else in common with Western values.

Now, having created another conflagration, the globalist CFR cabal is using its tragic victims — particularly the refugee women and children — as human shields to prolong its destructive policies. They are playing upon our compassion and sense of fairness. But Haass' appeal concerning loyalty to allies belies a century of betrayals of our allies by CFR henchmen, especially the betrayal of national leaders and whole nations to communism: Think, for example, China, Cuba, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Baltic States, Iran, Nicaragua, Rhodesia, South Africa, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, etc. (For details on these betrayals,



AP Images

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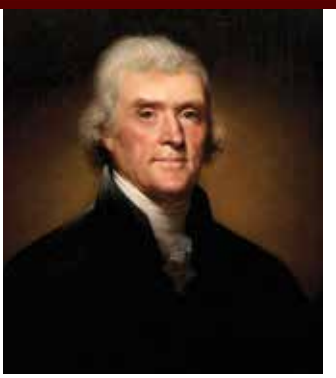
Tyrants and terrorists: Vice President Joe Biden admitted the Obama administration and our Middle East "allies" supported ISIS terrorists and Turkey's tyrannical regime against the Syrian dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad, our former "ally."



Founding Fathers vs. globalists: Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Quincy Adams opposed the foreign interventionism and entangling alliances that our globalist policy elites use to bankrupt our economy and destroy our sovereignty.

see: *In the Shadows of the Deep State: A Century of Council on Foreign Relations Scheming for World Government* by Arthur Thompson and *The Shadows of Power: The Council on Foreign Relations and the American Decline* by James Perloff.)

The council's record of treachery, treason, and betrayal — from CFR founders Edward Mandell House, Walter Lippman, and the Dulles brothers, through Soviet agents Alger Hiss and Lawrence Duggan, to pro-communist globalists Thomas Lamont, David and Nelson Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger, and George Soros — includes consigning hundreds of millions of victims to tyranny, torture, persecution, slave labor, and/or genocide. Given the council's pitiless, bloody record, only those who are hopelessly gullible will be fooled by the current round of CFR crocodile tears for the Kurds.

The real problem is that when you have disloyal Americans (whether communist, globalist, or both) running your foreign policy and determining who our "allies" will be, you can count on your real allies getting betrayed and your enemies getting rewarded as allies.

The "Isolationist," "America First" Bogeyman

Second, Haass' decrying of President Trump's "America First" and "isolationist" policies is as predictable as it is disingenuous.

As the late Admiral Chester Ward, former judge advocate general of the U.S. Navy, noted decades ago, "In the entire CFR lexicon, there is no term of revulsion carrying a meaning so deep as 'America First.'" Why is that? Because, said Admiral Ward, the goal of the CFR is the "submergence of U.S. sovereignty and national independence into an all-powerful one-world government." Admiral Ward, who was himself a CFR member for 16 years, noted that "this lust to surrender the sovereignty and independence of the United States is pervasive throughout most of the membership."

Thus, CFR thought leaders have ever tried to equate foreign entanglements, international agreements, foreign intervention, and foreign wars with "world leadership," since all of these roads lead to further weakening of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing and empowering the United Nations. According to Haass, the idea that America can "turn its back on the world" is "seriously misguided." But Americans have never been "isolationist" in the sense that Haass insinuates, and have never advocated turning our nation's "back on the world." Now, as in the past, Americans want to have full, friendly people-to-people relations with all friendly nations — for commerce, trade, and travel. And now, as in the past, Americans are leery of foreign entanglements — that is, government-to-government relations. Haass notes, with apparent dismay, that a recent Pew survey shows large majorities of U.S. military veterans, as well as the general public, believe that the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria "were not worth fighting." The foreign policy establishment is upset that Americans are succumbing to "intervention fatigue" and are objecting to an endless, "open-ended military presence" in whichever *crisis du jour* hellhole Haass and company decide to send our troops.

Americans are weary of, and leery of, calls for more war. Haass is correct in seeing this aversion to interventionism in "a lineage traceable to America's Founding Fathers."

Perhaps the most famous line from Thomas Jefferson's first inaugural address, delivered on March 4, 1801, is this: "Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations — entangling alliances with none." He also said, in the same address: "Peace, justice, and liberal intercourse with all the nations of the world, will, I hope, characterize this commonwealth."

Jefferson's prescription for peace followed the earlier advice of George Washington, who, in his farewell address, said: "Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalship, interest, humor or caprice? It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world."

President John Quincy Adams similarly counseled that America "goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own…. She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy, and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom. The fundamental maxims of her policy would insensibly change from liberty to force.... She might become the dictatress of the world. She would be no longer the ruler of her own spirit."

Will America follow the counsels of Washington, Jefferson, and Adams, as they pertain to foreign entanglements and endless wars, or will it follow the destructive advice of Haass and the CFR's self-styled "Wise Men of foreign affairs" that leads to national suicide? President Trump is making efforts to reverse the treacherous policies of the CFR cabal, but we still have a very long way to go. ■

Turn Away "Our" ISIS Fighters AND KURDISH "REFUGEES"

The Deep State thought-cartel commands the United States and EU to accept back terrorists who went to fight for ISIS, and also welcome hundreds of thousands of Kurdish "refugees."

AP Images

Our terrorist "allies": The Obama/Deep State cabal funneled huge financial and military support to the "Free Syrian Army," which it absurdly called our allies; it turns out they joined forces with al-Qaeda, al Nusra, and ISIS/ISIL.

by William F. Jasper

A sea of tears is being shed for ISIS terrorists who are now trapped inside Syria. Another ocean of tears is being cried for the Kurdish YPG/SDF terrorists, who, until recently, were holding tens of thousands of ISIS terrorists and their family members captive. But now that Turkey has entered the fray on the side of the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad, both the ISIS jihadi terrorists and the YPG/SDF communist terrorists are in jeopardy. Thousands of the ISIS and Kurdish terrorists are said to be "foreign fighters" who came to the Middle East to fight in the Syrian Civil War on one of the many (at least five) sides of the constantly shifting lineup of combatants. Many of these foreign fighters came from the United States and the countries of the European Union, so the "humanitarians" of the Deep State refugee lobby are insisting that the United States and EU have both a moral obligation and security interest in repatriating "their" ISIS terrorists and receiving up to a million Kurdish "refugees."

One of the many appeals for ISIS repatriation was presented by Anthony Dworkin, a senior policy fellow of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), in an October 16 column entitled "European foreign fighters in Syria: The cost of inaction." Dworkin worries about proposals to transfer the imprisoned ISIS jihadists from Syria to Iraq because of "serious concerns about inhumane treatment and a lack of due process in the country." And he is equally concerned for the terrorists' welfare if they should end up under the control of the Syrian government because then, he notes, "a regime with a well-documented history of torturing and killing prisoners would have control of many hundreds of European citizens, including large numbers of children."

Repatriation-Rehabilitation Refrain

"Repatriation remains the most effective way for EU member states to assess each case, prosecute jihadists where necessary, and interrogate returnees to learn more about ISIS methods and plans," the ECFR senior fellow asserts. "But European countries have done almost nothing to take responsibility for their citizens," Dworkin says, while further condemning what he called "European countries' avoidance of any steps to take charge of their foreign fighters." Acknowledging a recent Odoxa poll, he notes that "European voters strongly opposed the repatriation of ISIS members." Nevertheless, he holds that European leaders should disregard this widespread sentiment and hearken instead to the advice proffered by him and other ECFR "experts."

The ECFR is, of course, a sister affiliate of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), voice of the American globalist establishment. The CFR-ECFR cabal and their fellow internationalists in the worlds of politics and media are orchestrating a campaign to turn the current "Syrian crisis" into another pretext for inundating and destabilizing the West with still another flood of Muslim refugees — a flood that would include European and American "citizens" who have freely elected to go to Syria and enlist with the same ISIS terrorists who have declared us to be their enemies, and who have been carrying out murderous terrorist attacks against Europe and America. Now we are supposed to have sympathy for the ISIS terrorists' plight, and also are supposed to believe that bringing them back to Europe and America will enhance our security!

Among the chatter amplifying Dworkin's repatriation thesis is a piece by Kirsten Carlson, a Danish professor of international law, entitled "Western states must repatriate IS fighters and their families before more break free from Syrian camps." The Carlson article was published at The Conversation, a global media consortium that poses as an "alternative," nonprofit media source, but which spouts exclusively liberal-left-globalist dogma. The left tilt of the outfit is hardly surprising, since it is funded by the usual leftist foundations (Gates, Ford, Carnegie, Sloan, Luce, Lilly, Johnson) and 16 American universities, most of which are taxpayer financed.

According to Professor Carlson, she is against having trials on site of ISIS members in the countries where they are being held because "rights-respecting court processes will take huge resources and could be inconclusive." Not only would the trials be a burden that the countries should have to take on, moreover, says she, "Any just tribunal would release most of the convicted prisoners within, at most, a few years if jail terms are to conform to widely accepted humanitarian standards" — the implication being that they will be released shortly anyway, so you might as well release them now. Indeed, there are plenty of left-wing politicians, journalists, and advocacy groups, as well as radical judges, who would tearfully embrace the ISIS miscreants as victims and ardently press for their release and "rehabilitation."

AP Images

Musical chair terrorists: Members of our Kurdish YPG "allies" with a flag with the image of their leader, Abdullah Ocalon, founder of the communist terrorist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

Over at The Intercept, an "alternative" news site run by leftist Glenn Greenwald and funded by eBay billionaire Pierre Omidyar, Turkish writer Umar Farook penned a column entitled "Nobody Has a Plan for Thousands of ISIS Fighters Detained by Kurds in Syria." Farook complains there is no formal process for the ISIS detainees "that would weed out those who could be prosecuted from those who could be rehabilitated." It is clear that Farook and the "experts" he presents are in the repatriate-and-rehabilitate camp. He quotes, for instance, Tanya Mehra, a senior research fellow at the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism in The Hague, who argues: "It would be better, from a long-term security perspective, to repatriate these fighters and their families in a controlled manner." He also quotes Letta Taylor of Human Rights Watch, who fumes that "The UK should act now to help get its citizens out of northeast Syria before it has the blood of its own nationals on its hands."

It's more of the same at *Foreign Policy* magazine, a Deep State fount long associated with the Carnegie Endowment (Soviet agent Alger Hiss was one of its most infamous presidents) and the CFR, and now owned by Graham Holdings, the parent company of the *Washington Post*. *Foreign Policy* writer Pilar Cebrian has produced an article entitled "They Left to Join ISIS. Now Europe Is Leaving Their Citizens to Die in Iraq."

Send Us a Million Kurds

Surely one of the most outrageous pleas in the current push for Middle East refugees is that proposed by Shikha Dalmia, a senior analyst at Reason Foundation, the libertarian think tank. In an article for *Reason* magazine entitled "Let the Kurds Come to America," Dalmia argues, "There are less than a million Kurds in SDF-controlled Syria. Even if they all came to the U.S., America could absorb them without breaking a sweat." Besides, says Dalmia, "not all of them would even come," since many would choose to stay and fight. "But Kurdish fighters may appreciate a safe haven for their spouses and children. The least America can do is give them that option."

The YPG/SDF forces that Dalmia champions are led by hardcore communists of the Maoist-Marxist-Leninist variety. But "the least America can do" is bring as many of them here as want to come and accept the wives and children of the rest who wish to stay and fight.

You get the picture: The propagandists for the globalist elites are telling Americans and Europeans that not only must we continue spending trillions of dollars on endless foreign wars in which they've involved us, but that we also must throw open our doors to terrorists and further burden our already bankrupt welfare state by embracing the terrorists' families. ■

The Freedom Index

A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution

Our first look at the 116th Congress shows how every member of the House and Senate voted on key issues such as the so-called Equality Act (House), the Paris climate agreement (House), federal funding of abortion (Senate), and the two-year budget deal (House and Senate).

House Vote Descriptions

1 Consolidated Appropriations. This bill (House Joint Resolution 31) would provide $333 billion in discretionary spending for the seven remaining fiscal 2019 appropriations bills: Agriculture ($23 billion); Commerce-Justice-Science ($64.1 billion); Financial Services ($23.4 billion); Homeland Security ($61.6 billion); Interior-Environment ($35.6 billion); State-Foreign Operations ($54.2 billion); and Transportation-Housing and Urban Development ($71.1 billion).

The House passed the final version of the bill (the conference report) on February 14, 2019 by a vote of 300 to 128 (Roll Call 87). We have assigned pluses to the nays because most of the bill's spending programs are unconstitutional, our nation's national debt is about $23 trillion, and our nation's 2019 federal budget deficit was nearly $1 trillion.

CaptureTheWorld/iStock/GettyImagesPlus

Spend and spend; borrow and borrow: Congress continues to spend much more than it collects in taxes, causing deficits and debt to skyrocket.

2 Public Lands. This bill (S. 47) would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which was first authorized in 1964 to assist states in the planning, acquisition, and development of "recreation" lands. The LWCF was initially funded by proceeds from the sales of surplus federal property, motorboat fuel taxes, and fees for recreational use of federal lands, but by 1969 a major funding source was added: fees charged to oil and gas companies for extracting resources from public lands. In this way this could be portrayed as making more "recreational" public land available without any cost to taxpayers (neglecting

About This Index

"The Freedom Index: A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution" rates congressmen based on their adherence to constitutional principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, national sovereignty, and a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements. To learn how any representative or senator voted on the key measures described herein, look him or her up in the vote charts.

The scores are derived by dividing a congressman's constitutional votes (pluses) by the total number he cast (pluses and minuses) and multiplying by 100. This is our first index for the 116th Congress. The average House score for this index is 36 percent, and the average Senate score is 28 percent. Two representatives (Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Justin Amash of Michigan) and two senators (Rand Paul of Kentucky and Mike Lee of Utah) earned 100 percent. We encourage readers to examine how their own congressmen voted on each of the 10 key measures. We also encourage readers to commend legislators for their constitutional votes, and to urge improvement where needed.

An online version of the "Freedom Index" is also available (click on "Freedom Index" at TheNewAmerican.com). ■

House Vote Scores ✓

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALABAMA												
1	Byrne (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
2	Roby (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
3	Rogers, M. (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
4	Aderholt (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
5	Brooks, M. (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
6	Palmer (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
7	Sewell (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
ALASKA												
AL	Young Don (R)	22%	-	-	+	-	+	?	-	-	-	-
ARIZONA												
1	O'Halleran (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Kirkpatrick (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Grijalva (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4	Gosar (R)	80%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
5	Biggs (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
6	Schweikert (R)	80%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
7	Gallego (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
8	Lesko (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
9	Stanton (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
ARKANSAS												
1	Crawford (R)	50%	+	-	+	-	?	+	-	-	+	?
2	Hill (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
3	Womack (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
4	Westerman (R)	56%	+	-	+	-	+	?	-	-	+	+
CALIFORNIA												
1	LaMalfa (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
2	Huffman (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	Garamendi (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4	McClintock (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
5	Thompson, M. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
6	Matsui (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	-
7	Bera (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
8	Cook (R)	33%	-	-	+	?	+	+	-	-	-	-
9	McNerney (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
10	Harder (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
11	DeSaulnier (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
12	Pelosi (D)	17%	-	?	-	+	-	-	?	?	-	?
13	Lee, B. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
14	Speier (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	-
15	Swalwell (D)	25%	-	-	-	+	-	?	?	+	-	-
16	Costa (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Khanna (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
18	Eshoo (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
19	Lofgren (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
20	Panetta (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
21	Cox (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Nunes (R)	40%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
23	McCarthy (R)	40%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
24	Carbajal (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
25	Hill (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Brownley (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
27	Chu (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
28	Schiff (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
29	Cárdenas (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	-
30	Sherman (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	-
31	Aguilar (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
32	Napolitano (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
33	Lieu (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
34	Gomez (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
35	Torres (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
36	Ruiz (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
37	Bass (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
38	Sánchez (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
39	Cisneros (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
40	Roybal-Allard (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
41	Takano (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
42	Calvert (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
43	Waters, Maxine (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
44	Barragán (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
45	Porter (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
46	Correa (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
47	Lowenthal (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
48	Rouda (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	?	-	-	+	-	-
49	Levin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
50	Hunter (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
51	Vargas (D)	44%	+	-	-	+	?	-	-	+	-	+
52	Peters, S. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
53	Davis, S. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
COLORADO												
1	DeGette (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2	Neguse (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	Tipton (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+
4	Buck (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
5	Lamborn (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
6	Crow (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
7	Perlmutter (D)	11%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	?	-	-
CONNECTICUT												
1	Larson, J. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2	Courtney (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	DeLauro (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4	Himes (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5	Hayes (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
DELAWARE												
AL	Blunt Rochester (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
FLORIDA												
1	Gaetz (R)	60%	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+
2	Dunn (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
3	Yoho (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+
4	Rutherford (R)	33%	-	-	+	?	+	+	-	-	-	-
5	Lawson (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Waltz (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
7	Murphy (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
8	Posey (R)	70%	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+
9	Soto (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
10	Demings (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
11	Webster (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
12	Bilirakis (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
13	Crist (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Castor (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
15	Spano (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
16	Buchanan (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-
17	Steube (R)	78%	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	-	+	+
18	Mast (R)	50%	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a rep. did not vote; a "P" means he voted "present." If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

to admit that ending the LWCF funding would benefit taxpayers by freeing up the fossil-fuel royalties for other purposes). The LWCF has been spending about $1 billion per year in recent years. This bill would also authorize other federal activities pertaining to natural resources, such as designating "National Heritage Areas" and "Conservation Districts."

The House passed S. 47 on February 26, 2019 by a vote of 363 to 62 (Roll Call 95). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Constitution does not authorize Congress to purchase private property except "all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings."

3 Firearms Background Checks. The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 (H.R. 8) would mandate universal background checks, essentially ban all private firearm sales, and create a federal registry of all gun owners in the United States. Michael Hammond, the legislative counsel for Gun Owners of America, noted, "Bottom line, H.R. 8 was not about public safety. Over and over again we see that mass shooters, who don't steal their weapons, pass background checks before purchasing their firearms. So extending the background checks to private sales will do nothing to keep guns 'out of the wrong hands.'"

The House passed H.R. 8 on February 27, 2019 by a vote of 240 to 190 (Roll Call 99). We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill would severely infringe upon the Second Amendment-protected right to keep and bear arms, since the bill's onerous regulations would make it very difficult for law-abiding citizens to privately sell their firearms or to purchase firearms from a private seller.

4 Yemen. This bill (Senate Joint Resolution 7) would direct "the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen … unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces has been enacted." The measure exempts U.S. forces "engaged in operations directed at al Qaeda or associated forces."

The House passed S.J. Res. 7 on April 4, 2019 by a vote of 247 to 175 (Roll Call 153). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because Congress is vested with the power to declare war, and Congress has not authorized any intervention or war in Yemen. Nor should Congress do so, since the civil war in Yemen does not threaten the United States.

5 Paris Agreement. This bill (H.R. 9) would prohibit the use of federal funds for U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on climate change and would require the president to develop a plan for the United States to meet contributions promised under the Obama administration.

The House passed H.R. 9 on May 2, 2019 by a vote of 231 to 190 (Roll Call 184). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Paris Agreement never should have been signed by the United States in the first place. The Paris Agreement essentially functions as a treaty, and the United States entered into it without ratification by the U.S. Senate, which is required under the Constitution. Furthermore, from a practical standpoint, fulfilling the terms of the agreement would stifle the U.S. economy and energy sector while making almost no impact whatsoever on alleged man-made global warming.

6 Equality Act. This bill (H.R. 5) would expand the definition of protected classes in federal law to include "sexual orientation and gender identity." Regarding the latter, the Equality Act explicitly states that "an individual shall not be denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity." That is, males who identify as females would be able to use the public restrooms, locker rooms, and dressing rooms of the opposite sex — and visa versa. Moreover, the bill not only fails to include religious exemptions (e.g., allowing a church adoption agency to refuse placing children with homosexual couples), but explicitly states that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 cannot be used as a defense against the bill's applications.

The House passed the Equality Act on May 17, 2019 by a vote of 236 to 173

AP Images

When disaster strikes, helping hands should provide aid. Yet federal disaster assistance has a poor track record of efficiently helping the needy, compared to local or private efforts.

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19	Rooney, F. (R)	75%	+	-	+	?	?	+	+	-	+	+
20	Hastings (D)	25%	-	-	-	+	?	-	?	+	-	-
21	Frankel (D)	25%	-	?	?	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
22	Deutch (D)	22%	?	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
23	Wasserman Schultz (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Wilson, F. (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	-
25	Diaz-Balart (R)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
26	Mucarsel-Powell (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Shalala (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
GEORGIA												
1	Carter, E.L. (R)	50%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
2	Bishop, S. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	Ferguson (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
4	Johnson, H. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5	Lewis, John (D)	22%	-	?	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
6	McBath (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Woodall (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
8	Scott, A. (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
9	Collins, D. (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
10	Hice (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
11	Loudermilk (R)	56%	+	-	+	-	?	+	-	-	+	+
12	Allen (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
13	Scott, D. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
14	Graves, T. (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
HAWAII												
1	Case (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Gabbard (D)	11%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	?	-	-
IDAHO												
1	Fulcher (R)	70%	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
2	Simpson (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
ILLINOIS												
1	Rush (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2	Kelly, R. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	Lipinski (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
4	García (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5	Quigley (D)	22%	?	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
6	Casten (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
7	Davis, D. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
8	Krishnamoorthi (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
9	Schakowsky (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
10	Schneider (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	-
11	Foster (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
12	Bost (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
13	Davis, R. (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
14	Underwood (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Shimkus (R)	44%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	?
16	Kinzinger (R)	44%	?	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+
17	Bustos (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	LaHood (R)	67%	+	-	+	-	+	?	+	-	+	+
INDIANA												
1	Visclosky (D)	11%	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	+	-	-
2	Walorski (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
3	Banks (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
4	Baird (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
5	Brooks, S. (R)	20%	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
6	Pence (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
7	Carson (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Bucshon (R)	56%	+	-	+	-	+	?	-	-	+	+
9	Hollingsworth (R)	80%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
IOWA												
1	Finkenauer (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Loebsack (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	Axne (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	King, S. (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
KANSAS												
1	Marshall (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
2	Watkins (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
3	Davids (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Estes (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
KENTUCKY												
1	Comer (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
2	Guthrie (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+
3	Yarmuth (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4	Massie (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
5	Rogers, H. (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
6	Barr (R)	60%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
LOUISIANA												
1	Scalise (R)	40%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
2	Richmond (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	Higgins, C. (R)	89%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	?	+	+
4	Johnson, M. (R)	78%	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	-	+	+
5	Abraham (R)	71%	+	+	+	-	?	+	?	-	+	?
6	Graves, G. (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
MAINE												
1	Pingree (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2	Golden (D)	20%	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARYLAND												
1	Harris, A. (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
2	Ruppersberger (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	Sarbanes (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4	Brown, A. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5	Hoyer (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
6	Trone (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
7	Cummings (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	?
8	Raskin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
MASSACHUSETTS												
1	Neal (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2	McGovern (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3	Trahan (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4	Kennedy, Joseph P. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5	Clark, K. (D)	11%	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	+	-	-
6	Moulton (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	+	-	-
7	Pressley (D)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-
8	Lynch (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
9	Keating (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
MICHIGAN												
1	Bergman (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+
2	Huizenga (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
3	Amash (I)	100%	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+
4	Moolenaar (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
5	Kildee (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
6	Upton (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
7	Walberg (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
8	Slotkin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
9	Levin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
10	Mitchell (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
11	Stevens (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
12	Dingell (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	+	-	-
13	Tlaib (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
14	Lawrence (D)	11%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	?	-	-
MINNESOTA												
1	Hagedorn (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
2	Craig (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a rep. did not vote; a "P" means he voted "present." If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

(Roll Call 217). We have assigned pluses to the nays because of the harm it would cause to heterosexual children and adults, as well as threatening religious freedom and the right of association.

7 Disaster Supplemental Appropriations. This bill (H.R. 2157) would provide $19.1 billion in supplemental disaster funds for response efforts to damage caused by hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and other natural disasters that occurred in 2017, 2018, and 2019. It includes nutrition assistance for individuals impacted by natural disasters in Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. And it provides funds for economic assistance, employment training, healthcare, agricultural losses, and infrastructure repairs in disaster-stricken areas.

The House passed H.R. 2157 on June 3, 2019 by a vote of 354 to 58 (Roll Call 232). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the federal government does not have authority under the Constitution to rebuild areas stricken by natural disasters. Such activity should be undertaken by private companies and charities first, and, as a last resort, handled by local or state governments. This would arguably result in disasters being handled much more efficiently and effectively, as the federal government is often criticized for its slow, inefficient, and ineffective response to such events (think FEMA).

8 Indefinite Military Detention. During consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA; H.R. 2500), Representative Justin Amash (R-Mich.) introduced an amendment to prohibit the indefinite military detention of any person (including American citizens) detained in the United States, its territories, or its possessions under the Authorization for the Use of Military Force or the NDAA. Instead, such persons would be immediately transferred from military detention for trial and afforded "all the due process as provided for under the Constitution."

The House rejected Amash's amendment on July 12, 2019 by a vote of 187 to 236 (Roll Call 460). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because indefinite detention without trial is a serious violation of long-cherished legal protections, including the right to habeas corpus, the issuance of a warrant based on probable cause (Fourth Amendment), and the right to a "speedy and public" trial (Sixth Amendment).

AP Images

Steppingstones to confiscation: The House passed legislation requiring background checks for all gun purchases, hurdles to make private sales of guns very difficult, and a federal gun registry. How many more steps will there be until outright gun seizures?

9 Budget Deal. This two-year budget bill (H.R. 3877) would establish sufficiently high spending limits to allow the Washington spendathon to continue (and then some) through fiscal years 2020 and 2021. It would also suspend the national debt ceiling until July 31, 2021, in order to accommodate accumulating federal debt between now and then without having to vote to raise the debt limit. *Congressional Quarterly* (*CQ*) noted that the bill would "add $324 billion to spending limits over the next two years, not counting an extra $157 billion mainly for overseas military operations." And although $77 billion of that would be offset, *CQ* further noted that the supposed cuts "don't take effect until fiscal 2027." Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) was so outraged by the budget deal that he attempted (but failed) to change the bill's title to read, "A bill to kick the can down the road, and for other purposes."

The House passed the budget deal on July 25, 2019 by a vote of 284 to 149 (Roll Call 511). We have assigned pluses to the nays not only because spending needs to be brought under control and deficits eliminated to avoid fiscal disaster — not "down the road," but now — but also because much of the spending is unconstitutional.

10 Short-term Appropriations. This bill (H.R. 4378) would provide funding for federal government operations and services through November 21, 2019, at fiscal 2019 levels. Passage of this bill, known as a continuing appropriations resolution, was necessary because the House Democrats had passed only 10 of the 12 major 2020 fiscal year appropriations bills so far, and the Senate had not even passed one of the 12, even though the 2020 fiscal year began on October 1, 2019.

The House passed H.R. 4378 on September 19, 2019 by a vote of 301 to 123 (Roll Call 538). We have assigned pluses to the nays because with this continuing appropriations bill, Congress is failing to address its fiscally and constitutionally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that is currently yielding annual federal deficits of about $1 trillion that contribute directly to the dramatic growth of our $23 trillion national debt. ■

Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3 Phillips (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4 McCollum (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Omar (D)	44%	+	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	+	-
6 Emmer (R)	60%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
7 Peterson (D)	33%	-	-	+	+	-	?	-	-	+	-
8 Stauber (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+
MISSISSIPPI											
1 Kelly, T. (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
2 Thompson, B. (D)	13%	-	-	-	+	?	-	-	-	-	?
3 Guest (R)	44%	-	-	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	-
4 Palazzo (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
MISSOURI											
1 Clay (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2 Wagner (R)	44%	-	?	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
3 Luetkemeyer (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
4 Hartzler (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
5 Cleaver (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
6 Graves, S. (R)	78%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	?	+	+
7 Long (R)	50%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
8 Smith, J. (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
MONTANA											
AL Gianforte (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
NEBRASKA											
1 Fortenberry (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
2 Bacon (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
3 Smith, Adrian (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
NEVADA											
1 Titus (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	?	-	-	+	-	-
2 Amodei (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
3 Lee (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Horsford (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE											
1 Pappas (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2 Kuster (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
NEW JERSEY											
1 Norcross (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2 Van Drew (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Kim (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Smith, C. (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
5 Gottheimer (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Pallone (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
7 Malinowski (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
8 Sires (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
9 Pascrell (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
10 Payne (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
11 Sherrill (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
12 Watson Coleman (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
NEW MEXICO											
1 Haaland (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2 Torres Small (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Luján, B.R. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
NEW YORK											
1 Zeldin (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
2 King, P. (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
3 Suozzi (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4 Rice, K. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
5 Meeks (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
6 Meng (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
7 Velázquez (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
8 Jeffries (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
9 Clarke, Y. (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-

Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 Nadler (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
11 Rose (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	+	-	-
12 Maloney, C. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
13 Espaillat (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
14 Ocasio-Cortez (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
15 Serrano (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
16 Engel (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
17 Lowey (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
18 Maloney, S.P. (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
19 Delgado (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Tonko (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
21 Stefanik (R)	10%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22 Brindisi (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
23 Reed, T. (R)	33%	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	?
24 Katko (R)	13%	-	?	?	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
25 Morelle (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
26 Higgins, B. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
27 Collins, C. (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
NORTH CAROLINA											
1 Butterfield (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2 Holding (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
3 Murphy (R)											+
4 Price (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5 Foxx (R)	60%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
6 Walker (R)	78%	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	-	+	+
7 Rouzer (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
8 Hudson (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
9 Bishop (R)											+
10 McHenry (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
11 Meadows (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
12 Adams (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	?	-	-	+	-	-
13 Budd (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
NORTH DAKOTA											
AL Armstrong (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
OHIO											
1 Chabot (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
2 Wenstrup (R)	70%	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
3 Beatty (D)	25%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	?
4 Jordan (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
5 Latta (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
6 Johnson, B. (R)	25%	-	-	+	-	+	?	?	-	-	-
7 Gibbs (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
8 Davidson (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
9 Kaptur (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
10 Turner (R)	22%	-	-	+	-	+	?	-	-	-	-
11 Fudge (D)	13%	-	-	-	+	?	-	-	?	-	-
12 Balderson (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
13 Ryan, T. (D)	13%	-	-	-	?	-	?	-	+	-	-
14 Joyce (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
15 Stivers (R)	44%	-	-	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	-
16 Gonzalez (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
OKLAHOMA											
1 Hern (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
2 Mullin (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
3 Lucas (R)	40%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
4 Cole (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
5 Horn (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
OREGON											
1 Bonamici (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2 Walden (R)	20%	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
3 Blumenauer (D)	30%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-
4 DeFazio (D)	22%	-	?	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5 Schrader (D)	30%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a rep. did not vote; a "P" means he voted "present." If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PENNSYLVANIA											
1 Fitzpatrick (R)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Boyle (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3 Evans (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4 Dean (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5 Scanlon (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
6 Houlahan (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Wild (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Cartwright (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
9 Meuser (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
10 Perry (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
11 Smucker (R)	56%	+	-	+	-	+	?	-	-	+	+
12 Keller (R)									-	+	+
13 Joyce (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
14 Reschenthaler (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
15 Thompson, G. (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
16 Kelly, M. (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
17 Lamb (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
18 Doyle (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
RHODE ISLAND											
1 Cicilline (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2 Langevin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
SOUTH CAROLINA											
1 Cunningham (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	?
2 Wilson, J. (R)	44%	+	-	+	-	+	?	-	-	-	+
3 Duncan, Jeff (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
4 Timmons (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
5 Norman (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
6 Clyburn (D)	25%	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	+	-	?
7 Rice, T. (R)	67%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	?	+	+
SOUTH DAKOTA											
AL Johnson (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
TENNESSEE											
1 Roe (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
2 Burchett (R)	67%	+	-	+	-	+	?	+	-	+	+
3 Fleischmann (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
4 DesJarlais (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
5 Cooper (D)	30%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-
6 Rose (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
7 Green (R)	78%	+	+	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	+
8 Kustoff (R)	33%	-	-	+	?	+	+	-	-	-	-
9 Cohen (D)	22%	-	?	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
TEXAS											
1 Gohmert (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+
2 Crenshaw (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
3 Taylor (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
4 Ratcliffe (R)	67%	+	-	+	-	+	?	+	-	+	+
5 Gooden (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
6 Wright (R)	89%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	?	+	+
7 Fletcher (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Brady, K. (R)	38%	+	-	+	-	+	?	-	?	-	-
9 Green, A. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
10 McCaul (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
11 Conaway (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
12 Granger (R)	33%	-	-	+	?	+	+	-	-	-	-
13 Thornberry (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+
14 Weber (R)	67%	+	+	+	-	+	?	-	-	+	+
15 Gonzalez (D)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
16 Escobar (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
17 Flores (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
18 Jackson Lee (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
19 Arrington (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
20 Castro (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
21 Roy (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
22 Olson (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
23 Hurd (R)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
24 Marchant (R)	78%	+	+	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	+
25 Williams (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
26 Burgess (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
27 Cloud (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
28 Cuellar (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
29 Garcia (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
30 Johnson, E.B. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
31 Carter, J. (R)	40%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
32 Allred (D)	11%	?	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
33 Veasey (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
34 Vela (D)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
35 Doggett (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
36 Babin (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+
UTAH											
1 Bishop, R. (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
2 Stewart (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+
3 Curtis (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
4 McAdams (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
VERMONT											
AL Welch (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
VIRGINIA											
1 Wittman (R)	60%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
2 Luria (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Scott, R. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
4 McEachin (D)	13%	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	+	-	?
5 Riggleman (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
6 Cline (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
7 Spanberger (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
8 Beyer (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	-
9 Griffith (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
10 Wexton (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
11 Connolly (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
WASHINGTON											
1 DelBene (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
2 Larsen, R. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
3 Herrera Beutler (R)	44%	-	-	+	-	+	+	?	-	+	-
4 Newhouse (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
5 McMorris Rodgers (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
6 Kilmer (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
7 Jayapal (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
8 Schrier (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Smith, Adam (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
10 Heck (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
WEST VIRGINIA											
1 McKinley (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
2 Mooney (R)	80%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
3 Miller (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
WISCONSIN											
1 Steil (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
2 Pocan (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	+	-	-
3 Kind (D)	30%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-
4 Moore (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
5 Sensenbrenner (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
6 Grothman (R)	67%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	?	+	-
7 Duffy (R)	75%	+	+	+	-	+	?	-	?	+	+
8 Gallagher (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
WYOMING											
AL Cheney (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+

50%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a rep. did not vote; a "P" means he voted "present." If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

Senate Vote Descriptions

1 Abortion funding. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2019 (S. 109) would prohibit the use of federal funds to cover the cost of abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is at risk unless an abortion is performed. The bill would also prohibit qualified health plans from including abortion coverage.

The Senate did not vote directly on the bill, but on a motion to invoke cloture (and thus limit debate) so the bill could come up for a vote. The motion to invoke cloture was rejected on January 17, 2019 by a vote of 48 to 47 (Roll Call 7; a three-fifths majority of the entire Senate is required to invoke cloture). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the government should not subsidize or make provision for the killing of innocent human life.

PeopleImages/E+/GettyImagesPlus

A life worth saving … or killing? The Senate killed a bill that would have prohibited the use of federal funds to cover abortions.

2 Public Lands. This bill (S. 47) would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which was first authorized in 1964 to assist states in the planning, acquisition, and development of "recreation" lands. The LWCF was initially funded by proceeds from the sales of surplus federal property, motorboat fuel taxes, and fees for recreational use of federal lands, but by 1969 a major funding source was added: fees charged to oil and gas companies for extracting resources from public lands. In this way this could be portrayed as making more "recreational" public land available without any cost to taxpayers (neglecting to admit that ending the LWCF funding would benefit taxpayers by freeing up the fossil-fuel royalties for other purposes). The LWCF has been spending about $1 billion per year in recent years. This bill would also authorize other federal activities pertaining to natural resources, such as designating "National Heritage Areas" and "Conservation Districts."

The Senate passed S. 47 on February 12, 2019 by a vote of 92 to 8 (Roll Call 22). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Constitution does not authorize Congress to purchase private property except "all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings."

3 Consolidated Appropriations. This bill (House Joint Resolution 31) would provide $333 billion in discretionary spending for the seven remaining fiscal 2019 appropriations bills: Agriculture ($23 billion); Commerce-Justice-Science ($64.1 billion); Financial Services ($23.4 billion); Homeland Security ($61.6 billion); Interior-Environment ($35.6 billion); State-Foreign Operations ($54.2 billion); and Transportation-Housing and Urban Development ($71.1 billion).

The Senate passed H.J. Res. 31 on February 14, 2019 by a vote of 83 to 16 (Roll Call 26). We have assigned pluses to the nays because most of the bill's spending programs are unconstitutional, our nation's national debt is about $23 trillion, and our nation's 2019 federal budget deficit was nearly $1 trillion.

4 Yemen. This bill (Senate Joint Resolution 7) would direct "the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen … unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces has been enacted." The measure exempts U.S. forces "engaged in operations directed at al Qaeda or associated forces."

The Senate passed S.J. Res. 7 on March 13, 2019 by a vote of 54 to 46 (Roll Call 48). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because Congress is vested with the power to declare war, and Congress has not authorized any intervention or war in Yemen. Nor should Congress do so, since the civil war in Yemen does not threaten the United States.

5 Disaster Supplemental Appropriations. This bill (H.R. 2157) would provide $19.1 billion in supplemental disaster funds for response efforts

Senate Vote Scores ✓

Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALABAMA											
Shelby (R)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jones (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
ALASKA											
Murkowski (R)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sullivan (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
ARIZONA											
Sinema (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
McSally (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
ARKANSAS											
Boozman (R)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotton (R)	30%	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
CALIFORNIA											
Feinstein (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Harris, K. (D)	38%	-	-	+	+	-	?	+	?	-	-
COLORADO											
Bennet (D)	33%	-	-	-	+	-	?	+	+	-	-
Gardner (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
CONNECTICUT											
Blumenthal (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Murphy, C. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
DELAWARE											
Carper (D)	30%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
Coons (D)	11%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	-	-	-
FLORIDA											
Rubio (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Scott (R)	33%	+	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	+
GEORGIA											
Isakson (R)	11%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-
Perdue (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
HAWAII											
Schatz (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Hirono (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
IDAHO											
Crapo (R)	22%	?	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
Risch (R)	50%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+
ILLINOIS											
Durbin (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	?	-	+	-	-	-
Duckworth (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
INDIANA											
Young, T. (R)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Braun (R)	78%	+	-	+	-	+	+	?	+	+	+
IOWA											
Grassley (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-
Ernst (R)	40%	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+
KANSAS											
Roberts (R)	11%	+	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
Moran (R)	33%	+	-	-	+	?	-	+	-	-	-
KENTUCKY											
McConnell (R)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paul (R)	100%	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
LOUISIANA											
Cassidy (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Kennedy, John (R)	40%	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-

Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MAINE											
Collins (R)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
King, A. (I)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
MARYLAND											
Cardin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Van Hollen (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
MASSACHUSETTS											
Warren (D)	50%	-	-	+	+	-	?	+	?	?	?
Markey (D)	30%	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
MICHIGAN											
Stabenow (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Peters, G. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
MINNESOTA											
Klobuchar (D)	33%	-	-	-	+	-	?	+	+	-	-
Smith (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
MISSISSIPPI											
Wicker (R)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyde-Smith (R)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISSOURI											
Blunt (R)	11%	+	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
Hawley (R)	40%	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+
MONTANA											
Tester (D)	30%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
Daines (R)	50%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
NEBRASKA											
Fischer (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Sasse (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
NEVADA											
Cortez Masto (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Rosen (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE											
Shaheen (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Hassan (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
NEW JERSEY											
Menendez (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Booker (D)	50%	-	-	+	+	-	?	+	?	?	?
NEW MEXICO											
Udall (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Heinrich (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
NEW YORK											
Schumer (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Gillibrand (D)	33%	-	-	+	+	-	?	+	-	-	-
NORTH CAROLINA											
Burr (R)	0%	?	-	?	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
Tillis (R)	40%	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-
NORTH DAKOTA											
Hoeven (R)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cramer (R)	11%	+	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
OHIO											
Brown, S. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Portman (R)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OKLAHOMA											
Inhofe (R)	44%	+	+	+	-	-	-	?	-	-	+
Lankford (R)	50%	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-

Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
OREGON											
Wyden (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Merkley (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
PENNSYLVANIA											
Casey (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Toomey (R)	78%	+	+	+	-	?	+	-	+	+	+
RHODE ISLAND											
Reed, J. (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Whitehouse (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
SOUTH CAROLINA											
Graham, L. (R)	0%	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott, T. (R)	60%	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+
SOUTH DAKOTA											
Thune (R)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rounds (R)	29%	+	-	-	-	?	?	?	-	-	+
TENNESSEE											
Alexander (R)	0%	?	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-
Blackburn (R)	67%	+	-	-	-	+	+	?	+	+	+
TEXAS											
Cornyn (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Cruz (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+

Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
UTAH											
Lee, M. (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Romney (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
VERMONT											
Leahy (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Sanders (I)	33%	-	-	-	+	-	?	+	?	?	?
VIRGINIA											
Warner (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Kaine (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
WASHINGTON											
Murray (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Cantwell (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
WEST VIRGINIA											
Manchin (D)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
Capito (R)	11%	+	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-
WISCONSIN											
Johnson, R. (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Baldwin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
WYOMING											
Enzi (R)	44%	+	-	-	-	?	+	-	+	+	-
Barrasso (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a senator did not vote; a "P" means he voted "present." If he cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to Senate vote descriptions on pages 31, 33, and 34.

to damage caused by hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and other natural disasters that occurred in 2017, 2018, and 2019. It includes nutrition assistance for individuals impacted by natural disasters in Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. And it provides funds for economic assistance, employment training, healthcare, agricultural losses, and infrastructure repairs in disaster-stricken areas.

The Senate passed H.R. 2157 on May 23, 2019 by a vote of 85 to 8 (Roll Call 129). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the federal government does not have authority under the Constitution to rebuild areas stricken by natural disasters. Such activity should be undertaken by private companies and charities first, and, as a last resort, handled by local or state governments. This would arguably result in disasters being handled much more efficiently and effectively, as the federal government is often criticized for its slow, inefficient, and ineffective response to such events (think FEMA).

6 Supplemental Border Appropriations. During consideration of the supplemental border appropriations bill (H.R. 3401), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) introduced an amendment to rescind all funding for the East-West Center and the Inter-American Foundation, and funding previously appropriated for global health programs within the fiscal 2019 State and Foreign Operations appropriations measure.

The East-West Center is an education and research organization established by Congress in 1960 to strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. The Inter-American Foundation is an independent agency of the U.S. government that funds development projects undertaken by nongovernmental organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Rescinding funding for both these organizations would save over $40 million annually.

The Senate tabled (killed) Paul's amendment on June 26, 2019 by a vote of 77 to 15 (Roll Call 183). We have assigned pluses to the nays because nowhere in the Constitution is Congress authorized to fund such programs. These types of programs should be handled privately, not with U.S. taxpayers' money. Although Paul's amendment had little to do with U.S. border appropriations, his effort to eliminate this unconstitutional spending should be commended.

7 War Authorization. During consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1790), Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.) introduced an amendment to prohibit any funds authorized by the bill to be used to conduct hostilities against the government of Iran or in the territory of Iran. This amendment would allow U.S. forces to defend themselves and would not affect a congressional declaration of war on Iran.

The Senate voted on Udall's amendment on June 28, 2019, the day after the underlying legislation (S. 1790) was passed. Per a unanimous consent agreement, 60 votes were required to add the amendment to the bill retroactively. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 50 to 40 (Roll Call 189). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because hostilities conducted against a sovereign nation, in this case Iran, constitute an act of war, and would thus require, constitutionally speaking, a declaration of war by Congress.

8 Budget Deal. This two-year budget bill (H.R. 3877) would establish sufficiently high spending limits to allow the Washington spendathon to continue (and then some) through fiscal years 2020 and 2021. It would also suspend the national debt ceiling until July 31, 2021, in order to

accommodate accumulating federal debt between now and then without having to vote to raise the debt limit. *Congressional Quarterly* (*CQ*) noted that the bill would "add $324 billion to spending limits over the next two years, not counting an extra $157 billion mainly for overseas military operations." And although $77 billion of that would be offset, *CQ* further noted that the supposed cuts "don't take effect until fiscal 2027." In the House, Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) was so outraged by the budget deal that he attempted (but failed) to change the bill's title to read, "A bill to kick the can down the road, and for other purposes."

The Senate passed H.R. 3877 on August 1, 2019 by a vote of 67 to 28 (Roll Call 262). We have assigned pluses to the nays because spending needs to be brought under control and deficits eliminated to avoid fiscal disaster — not "down the road," but now — and also because much of the spending is unconstitutional.

9 Spending Cut. During consideration of the short-term appropriations bill (H.R. 4378), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) introduced an amendment to cut the bill's funding for federal operations and services by two percent. On the Senate floor, Paul pleaded, "The debt is growing at 8 percent a year. Spending is growing only at 4.5 percent, 5 percent a year. The debt is growing more rapidly because we have accumulated so much. We have over a $22 trillion debt. The interest this year is over $300 billion. As it grows faster and faster, the interest will exceed what we are spending on the military within about five years…. What I have put forward today … is an opportunity for the Senators who truly believe the debt is a problem to try to restrain spending with a 2-percent cut across the board."

The Senate rejected Paul's amendment on September 26, 2019 by a vote of 24 to 73 (Roll Call 310). We have assigned pluses to the yeas not only because most of the spending falls outside the scope of constitutionally authorized federal powers, but also because the federal government needs to start reining in ballooning federal spending and debt in order to avert future fiscal disaster. Although two percent may not seem like much, modest cuts are still better than none at all.

10 Short-term Appropriations. This bill (H.R. 4378) would provide funding for federal government operations and services through November 21, 2019, at fiscal 2019 levels. Passage of this bill, known as a continuing appropriations resolution, was necessary because the House Democrats had passed only 10 of the 12 major 2020 fiscal year appropriations bills so far, and the Senate had not even passed one of the 12, even though the 2020 fiscal year began on October 1, 2019.

The Senate passed H.R. 4378 on September 26, 2019 by a vote of 81 to 16 (Roll Call 311). We have assigned pluses to the nays because with this continuing appropriations bill, Congress is failing to address its fiscally and constitutionally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that is currently yielding annual federal deficits of about $1 trillion that contribute directly to the dramatic growth of our $23 trillion national debt. ■

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Beer Money Turned Massive Donation

Football fan Carson King of Ames, Iowa, drew attention to himself at ESPN's College GameDay when he held up a sign jokingly asking for donations for beer money. But King could never have predicted just how many people would actually send him donations, and King realized there was a far more important way to spend the money. He donated it all to a children's hospital — all $3 million!

King, 24, attended the College GameDay in Ames, Iowa, for the Iowa Hawkeyes-Iowa State University Cyclones rivalry game in September, along with two friends. The men brought a sign with them, which read, "Busch Light supply needs replenished." It included King's Venmo address so people could send money.

King's sign drew attention from the cameras at the game, and he was astonished to learn that he and his sign actually appeared on television. As it turned out, King and his friends were in the perfect position to be seen on camera — they were right behind commentator Kirk Herbstreit.

When King checked his phone during the game, he realized he had received $400 of donations through Venmo in just one hour.

His initial thought, he told Today.com, was, "That's so much beer! This is great!"

But when he checked his phone again and realized donations swelled to $600, he realized it would be absurd to use the money for beer. "I thought, 'I think I should do something better with this money than just buy Busch Light with it,'" King said. "As great as Busch Light is, I think I want to donate this money to charity."

King discussed his considerations with his family and decided that after using some of the funds to purchase just one case of beer, he would donate the rest to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Amazingly, King's generosity inspired others. When Busch Beer heard about King and his donation, the beer company joined in the fun with a tweet directly to King on September 17: "This is the best thing we have read all year, we're inspired. We're going to match your donation to University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, and we'll throw in some of that Busch Light you were looking for."

And when Venmo heard the story and saw the tweets, it also announced its interest in matching King's donation. "We see a lot of great stories, but this is one of our favs @ CarsonKing2. Count us in for matching the donation to the hospital, too," Venmo tweeted to King.

The generosity did not end there. All across the country, people sent money to King's Venmo account to put toward the hospital donation. By the end of September, donations topped $3 million.

CNN reports Stead Family Children's Hospital said they were overwhelmed by the donation and the generosity of the donors. "We can't think — our minds are blown by all of this!" the hospital said in a tweet. "Thank you to everyone who helped reach this milestone! We're so grateful!"

King told Today.com that he himself only has $400 in his checking account, but has a full-time job and is happy to donate all of the money he has received.

"I make my own money," he laughed. "I just bought my first house. I pay my bills and I can adult pretty well, so I am happy to do this for the children's hospital."

"The University of Iowa's Stead Family Children's Hospital does amazing work for kids and families all over the country," King said. "I just wanted to help them out in anyway I could."

Chick-fil-A Employee to the Rescue

Yet another Chick-fil-A employee is showcasing the goodness of America in this story out of Stafford, Virginia.

On October 1, Shauna Hall entered a Chick-fil-A restaurant in Stafford in a panic after she dropped her phone into the storm drain just outside. She made several attempts to retrieve it, but fell short each time.

Chick-fil-A employee Seth Ratliff, who handles the franchise's digital marketing and events, felt terrible for Hall, who was "nearly in tears," he told Today.com.

Hall had reportedly "just paid off" the phone, Fox News reported.

"Compassion just took over and I just wanted to help," Ratliff said.

Ratliff used a grab-stick mirror to locate the phone in the drain, and discovered it went through the drainage gate entirely out of reach. The two contacted the county for help, but learned quickly they weren't going to get it. Hall claims the county hung up on the phone call.

Hall was ready to give up, and took her son into the restaurant to eat, but Ratliff did not want it to end like that.

"I wasn't going to stop until I got her phone back. She was so upset seeing as her whole life was on that phone," Ratliff told Today.com. "I'm a follower of Christ and I just wanted to do the right thing."

Not only did Ratliff reimburse Hall for the food she purchased at the restaurant, but he managed to retrieve the phone.

Hall recalled, "After trying to reach it with his grab-stick, then dropping his stick, he tells me it's a manhole for a reason and he is going down." And so he did. Ratliff noticed the manhole cover was not bolted down, so he lifted it up and made his way into the storm drain.

When Ratliff retrieved the phone, Hall was overwhelmed with gratitude and hugged him.

Ratliff, of course, tried to downplay the wonderfully kind deed by asserting there was no "perceived danger."

"The [manhole] wasn't even six feet deep…. The hole to the side was so small, not even my Yorkie Poo would have fit through. There was no perceived danger. It all just happened in the moment," Ratliff told Today.com.

But Hall recognized Ratliff's efforts as going above and beyond customer service — or above and beyond what most others would likely do in the same situation.

"Not only did he slice his finger and was filthy from laying on the ground and climbing in the hole, I find out he had actually just gotten off shift and was still willing to help me," Hall posted on her Facebook page.

Hall's post included a photo of Ratliff in the manhole, and closed with the following: "Service with a smile. Just another day at Chick-fil-A." ■

—Raven Clabough

Spread THE Word

Seeking a Scapegoat for Biden's Crimes

Former Vice President Joe Biden has publicly bragged that he threatened to withhold a billion dollars from Ukraine if a prosecutor who was investigating a company his son worked for was not fired. Democrats are trying to impeach President Trump for asking Ukraine to look into the incident. (November 18, 2019, 48pp) **TNA191118**

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER ISSUES!

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The UN has a plan to limit what you eat, what you wear, and what you do — strictly limit them. And it is gaining enough social clout to get the backing of U.S. lawmakers. (November 4, 2019, 48pp) **TNA191104**

UN to America: We're the Boss

The UN — mainly a collection of totalitarian governments — presumes to tell the U.S. government and U.S. citizens what they can and can't do in America, trying to simply assume power over us. See a problem with that? (October 21, 2019, 48pp) **TNA191021**

Presumed Dangerous, No Guns

The latest solution to reduce murders is to take guns away from dangerous and mentally unstable individuals — without a presumption of innocence and without the ability to defend oneself. That's dangerous! (October 7, 2019, 48pp) **TNA191007**

Socialist Jackpot?

Socialism has great appeal because, in theory, it claims to nearly provide utopia on Earth, but in reality, it leads to less wealth, poorer healthcare, and greater inequality. (September 2, 2019, 56pp) **TNA190902**

Rescuing Our Children

American children are progressively doing worse in math, reading, and other subjects, while being indoctrinated with leftist pablum — the cause and the prognosis. (February 4, 2019, 48pp) **TNA190204**

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Daily Ration Turned Remembrance: Five Grains of Pilgrim Corn

Thanksgiving was held to give thanks to God for allowing the Pilgrims to overcome starvation and death in their new home.

by Andrew Lane

A full week was given to the first Thanksgiving feast in New England in 1621. Governor Bradford sent men to hunt deer and turkey and to call Massasoit's tribe to the Pilgrim's table. Out of this harvest festival came the American institution of Thanksgiving Day. It is peculiar to our people. No other nation has a celebration exactly like it. It does not honor a victory, mark a revolution, or commemorate the birth or death of a national hero. It is the great holiday of the common people. Thanksgiving is a national family celebration to thank God for the bounty wrought in liberty by our own labors.

Many descendants of the Pilgrims still follow the custom, begun on that first Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth, of placing five grains of corn beside each plate at the dinner table. Five grains of corn was the daily ration during those desperate days before the harvest when food was scarcely to be had. At each subsequent annual feast, the Pilgrims placed the grains at the table so that the reason for their rejoicing might not be forgotten.

The corn would remind them of the 63-day trip in the tiny *Mayflower*. It would speak to them of the days when there were only seven healthy colonists to care for the sick, and when already almost half their number were buried on a bleak and wind-swept hill. But the grains of corn would remind them of more than hardship and disaster. They would also recall that proudest fact of Pilgrim courage: that when spring came, and the *Mayflower* sailed home to England, every Pilgrim who survived the winter chose to remain in this new free land.

No strife, no victory: The first Thanksgiving is a reminder that there can be no true giving of thanks without some sacrifice having happened.

Each of the five grains of corn has special significance. The first grain reminds us that the earth is still good. This free land of our fathers yet pours forth its rich fruits and harvests into the hands of those who labor in it; it holds within its bosom vast reservoirs of power; it is a provident parent.

The second grain of corn should remind us of the Indians who befriended the Pilgrims and provided them with corn and squash that first dreadful winter, and taught them to gather clams and to catch fish. Had these members of another race, wise in the ways of survival in this world, not ministered to our forefathers, it is unlikely they would have survived. In listing our blessings, among those we would surrender last would be the love we share with our friends.

The third grain of our Thanksgiving corn recalls to us that "undefeated glory which is man." Courage, we know, is a part of the armor of every great man. If

This commemorative essay, entitled "Five Grains of Pilgrim Corn," appeared in the November 22, 1972 issue of The Review of The News*, a predecessor of* The New American.

Five grains of corn was the daily ration during those desperate days before the harvest when food was scarcely to be had.

skynesher/E+/GettyImagesPlus

Fleeing the fire: Modern Christians often wish to flee anti-Christian sentiment and actions, but anything worth having is worth fighting for.

we are "armed with a dream worthy to be believed," and with a courage sufficient for the hour, even we may do great things. Observe the scene more clearly. The winter had been severe, death a frequent visitor, and from England family voices called. But when the *Mayflower* returned, the colonists remained.

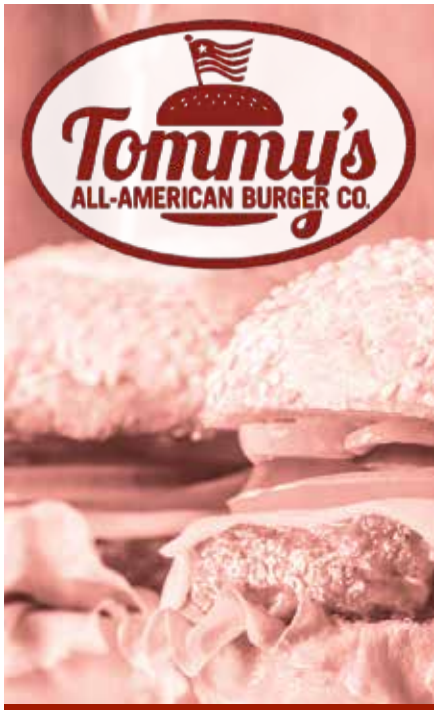
Certainly this scene has a special message for those who seek of life mere refuge. Today there are among us those who say they would leave this land if there were but some last, free place to go. They are, they complain, weary of battling escalating collectivism. Such Americans need to be reminded that even when life was almost unendurable, the Pilgrims stayed. Let us thank God for those patriotic men and women who yet refuse to bow to the forces warring against our liberties, who remain in the fight, who will not yield.

The fourth grain of corn reminds us that the Pilgrims came "to lay a foundation for the kingdom of Christ in these remote parts of the world." Freedom of conscience and religion was not simply a motto to them; they exercised their conscience to practice their religion. They prayed in their homes ... and their schools. They saw their freedom to do so as far more important than their physical comforts — or even food and shelter.

That last grain of corn in the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving pentad represents the most compelling reason to be grateful. It is the fact that at the center of our universe Creative Love still holds all life together. Out of that belief grows the faith of the Christian family and the Christian nation alike. Out of it, also, grows the assurance that His Kingdom will yet come. We may have a larger part in bringing it than we realize or want.

Christian leadership can seem a burden. Yet, have we not sought our chance to make a better world? Our forefathers came here to fulfill such a purpose. They thought they could do it by taming a wilderness. Perhaps God has now provided a sterner mission for us. Let us be thankful for His faith in us, that He has given us our chance to preserve those liberties which are our most precious heritage.

The meaning of the grains of corn can be recited briefly. We can rejoice in an earth still good, in friends still loyal, in a courage undefeated, and in a freedom still largely unimpaired in our Father's world. But there can be no true Thanksgiving, we must remember, without sacrifice. Our gratitude should lead to joy, and our joy to a renewed commitment to our God, our family, our country. With this must go our prayer that the Infinite Father in His great goodness may use both us and what gifts He has given us in the noblest cause of our time, the preservation of Christian civilization. ■



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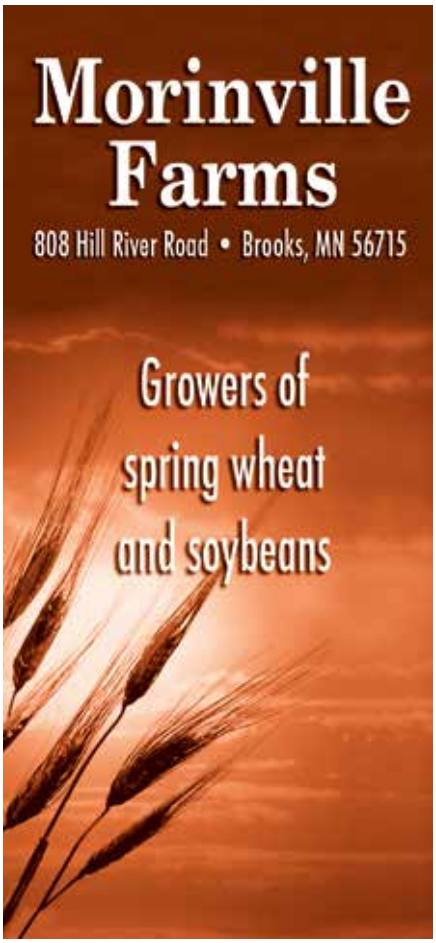

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One of many 27-year-old *Superb* trees

"... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

"Too Many Dumb Questions"

Mlive.com reported on a no-nonsense homeowner who defended himself from an intruder and then didn't have much patience for a 911 operator afterward. The incident occurred in Augusta Township, Michigan, when a burglar tried breaking in to a house in the early morning hours of June 15. A 63-year-old homeowner was in the house at the time and initially thought there was an animal at his back door. However, it didn't take long for the homeowner to realize that it was a human being outside, so the man armed himself to defend against the intruder.

The homeowner hid around a corner as the suspect forced opened the back door and entered into the kitchen. The homeowner came out from behind the corner and shot the suspect twice, sending the wounded intruder falling backward into a bathroom. The homeowner then called 911 to report the shooting, but according to a Michigan State Police report obtained by *The Ann Arbor News*, the homeowner hung up because he got frustrated by the 911 operator "asking too many dumb questions."

Police soon arrived on the scene and learned that the suspect had previously performed some contract work at the residence, although the homeowner said he did not recognize the man. The suspect was soon identified as 24-year-old Kip Elrod. He was taken to a nearby medical facility, and after nearly two months of medical treatment, Elrod entered a plea of no contest for second-degree home invasion and is scheduled to be sentenced November 18.

Hair Today and Tomorrow

A man is alive today because he was armed and prepared to defend himself against robbers, according to the chief of the local police department in Yeadon, Pennsylvania. WPVI reported about the incident in which a young entrepreneur who sells high-end hair extensions was contacted by two women who said they wanted to make a purchase and arranged to meet the man behind an apartment building.

The salesman drove his car there and encountered a woman named "Bernie" and another woman, later identified as 37-year-old Jhimeia Mimi Harrell. Bernie told the victim that she needed to get her money to pay for the extensions and walked away from the car. At that moment, two men emerged from the shadows and tried robbing the hair-extensions salesman. One of the suspects, later identified as Omar Thompson, literally jumped into the car through the driver's side window and shoved a gun into the victim's stomach and demanded everything in his vehicle.

Fortunately for the victim, he was also armed, and he pulled out his own firearm and shot at the suspect three times, with one of his shots fatally wounding the suspect in the head. Once the shooting was over, the other male suspect grabbed his accomplice's gun and joined the two female suspects in a nearby Buick to flee from the scene.

Yeadon Police soon arrived, and the victim told them what happened. The investigation not only eventually identified Harrell, but the other male suspect: 26-year-old Tyrone Chub Madison. Madison was arrested in Philadelphia on October 11 by Yeadon Police and U.S. Marshals. Yeadon police are still looking for Harrell and the other female suspect, known only as Bernie.

Yeadon Police Chief Anthony Paparo told the CBS affiliate in Philadelphia that their investigation determined the shooting was a justifiable homicide and that the victim was "lawfully ... in possession of a firearm…. The DA's Office has reviewed the case in reference to the victim and has determined this is a justifiable homicide.... He's a good kid who went through a very traumatic experience and it's probably going to be affecting him for a long period of time." Chief Paparo stressed the need to meet prospective buyers in neutral third-party locations, such as the parking lot of a police department, to scare away potential criminals, and he also noted that the victim being armed most likely saved his life. Chief Paparo also told WPVI, "Based on what I know, he likely would have lost his life had he not done what he did."

#MeToo + Second Amendment?

The *Reno Gazette-Journal* reported on May 2 about an attempted sexual assault foiled by an armed woman. "Police say the incident occurred in the early morning hours of April 20 when 29-year-old Josue Oconitrillo allegedly approached two women who were crossing a street and tried sexually assaulting one of them. Both women fought back against the man but were unable to physically stop him." That is until one of the women introduced her gun into the equation. The woman carried her gun in her purse and pulled it out and demanded the suspect stop. Police say Oconitrillo ignored her verbal commands and continued the assault, so she opened fire and hit him in the torso.

When police arrived at the scene, they discovered the injured suspect lying on the ground with a gunshot wound to his chest. Oconitrillo was transported for medical treatment but died a week later. The woman who shot him was initially arrested and charged with "intoxication with a firearm," but after detectives concluded their investigation, they determined that the shooting was a justifiable homicide and the charges were dropped.

Not a Helpless Victim

The Associated Press reported on September 22 about a hearing-impaired woman who defended herself from a burglar. The crime occurred in Rock Island, Oklahoma, when a man broke in to a house and refused to leave when confronted by an armed female homeowner. The woman yelled for the man to exit the home, but he ignored her warnings and allegedly continued to move toward her. The woman was in fear for her life, so she discharged her weapon and shot the suspect one time.

Police soon arrived, but the suspect was pronounced dead on the scene. Le Flore County Sheriff Rob Seale said the woman did not sustain any injuries during the break-in and the investigation is still ongoing. ■

— Patrick Krey

Ostensibly Setting Sights on Rich, Progressives Hope to Hit Middle Class

AP Images

Poverty play: Presidential aspirants Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders are shown here introducing their Medicare for All proposal, supposedly to be paid for by the rich. Both try to avoid mentioning that the plan will largely be paid for by the middle class.

Item: *Writing in the* New York Times *for October 8, in an article entitled "The Rich Really Do Pay Lower Taxes Than You,"* Times *columnist David Leonhardt alleged that for the "first time on record, the 400 wealthiest Americans last year paid a lower total tax rate — spanning federal, state and local taxes — than any other income group," citing "newly released" data. The data came from a book called* The Triumph of Injustice*, by economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman, both professors at the University of California, Berkeley.*

Item: *A video clip carried by MSNBC on August 1 carried a typical charge made by former Vice President Joe Biden during his ongoing presidential campaign. Disregarding the generally strong U.S. economic performance under Donald Trump, Biden implausibly maintains that the "economy, as well as the soul of this country, is collapsing because of this presidency."*

Item: *Also on August 1, following early Democratic debates, the* New York Times *essentially offered recommendations on how to beat Donald Trump, in a piece called "How Democrats Will Attack Trump on the Economy." Amid its suggestions, the establishment paper noted that the candidates have been assailing "Trump's record on trade, tax cuts and wage growth, accusing him of perpetuating economic inequality and a 'rigged' system that favors the wealthy and powerful. It was a preview of the economic arguments to be made as the 2020 race escalates."*

Item: *Commenting on the then-recent debate among Democratic contenders, media columnist Margaret Sullivan made several complaints in the October 16* Washington Post*. She carped that Elizabeth Warren had been repeatedly and publicly asked if her universal healthcare plan — one of several massive, expensive proposals cooked up for the candidate — would require more taxation on the middle class.*

As has long been her way, Warren repeatedly deflected and/or denied to answer such questions. The Post's *Sullivan charged that journalists "are kindly doing President Trump's work for him when they insist on trying to pin down" front-runner Warren "to declare she'd raise taxes to fund Medicare-for-all."*

Correction: There has been considerable misinformation and dissembling about the differing tax burdens of segments of the American population. That includes the counterfeit counter-claim by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) against those who dare to critique her: She has blasted them, for example, for believing that it is "more important to protect billionaires than it is to invest in an entire generation."

This "investment," to Warren, Bernie Sanders, and other Democratic candidates, along with their followers, means guaranteed healthcare — as well as a carbon-free world, an elevated minimum wage, college education for everyone, government-provided day care, and more. Building castles in the sky might take a bit longer.

Much of this is cheap politics — and a comfortless reminder that the cheaper the politician, the more he (or she) costs the country and the taxpayers.

The middle class is the ultimate target of economic fiction because that is where the meaningful votes, and the bulk of funds, can be found. Of late, aided by cuts in taxes and regulations, the economic situation of those in the middle class, and low earners as well, has been on the rise. This is happening despite the finger-pointing of so-called progressives, armed with misleading allegations about who does pay the tax bills. As intended, this leads to class-warfare rhetoric about soaking the rich and redistributing wealth.

Before imagining what it might take to construct the Brave New Socialist World, it might be instructive to look at what has actually been happening: The economy has been boosted widely and, in fact, the most progress has been made for those in need. Championing the poor and less fortunate, or so we have been told, is a progressive tenet — but somehow they don't credit Trump.

As of mid-year, as summarized by Adam Michel of the Heritage Foundation, average wages had grown at an annualized rate above 3 percent "for 10 straight months — twice as fast as inflation. And since the tax cuts of 2017, wage growth for the poorest 25% of workers has reached post-recession highs of 4.4%." Meanwhile, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, "the highest-income workers' wages are growing at a more modest rate, more than a percentage point lower than those of low-wage workers," said Michel.

If you want a job, it is available. In July, Michel pointed out that previously unemployed Hispanic and black working-age women were finding jobs faster than any other demographic group. The employment numbers got even better more recently. As the White House noted in early October, since Donald Trump's election, "the economy has added over 6.4 million jobs — more than the population of Maryland."

The White House also took note, happily, at the unemployment rate — which fell to 3.5 percent in September. This marked

> the 19th consecutive month at or below 4 percent unemployment. The unemployment rate is the lowest it has been since May 1969 — over 50 years ago. All Americans are benefiting from the labor market's continued improvement. The lowest unemployment rates on record were matched or set in September 2019 for African Americans, Hispanics, and people with disabilities.
>
> Additionally, the unemployment rate for people without a high school diploma fell to 4.8 percent, the lowest rate since the series began in 1992 and much lower than the 7.8 percent rate in November 2016.

Looking at this situation, the Democrats favor actions that would impair progress, such as imposing a $15 per hour federal minimum wage. Should that occur, there would naturally be some winners. And many losers. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the number of jobs lost (among many other negative results) could range from 1.3 million to 3.7 million.

There are many economic numbers that should be encouraging. Commentator Stephen Moore, who was considered for the Federal Reserve Board, cites the most recent data from the Census Bureau Current Population Survey. It reveals that middle-class incomes, after adjusting for inflation, have surged by $5,003 since Trump became president.

This puts national median household income at an all-time high. It also serves as a contrast to the previous two administrations. As Moore has noted (for Fox News and FreedomWorks), during the eight years that George W. Bush served as president, the median income went up only $401, greatly affected by the 2008 recession. Then, during the 7.5 years that Barack Obama was president

> and not including the end of the recession, which Obama inherited, incomes inched up by $1,043 (June 2009 – January 2019). This means that in the 16 years before the Trump presidency, incomes rose by about $1,500 while in less than three years middle incomes have risen three times faster.

Moreover, those are pre-tax numbers that don't include the impact of the Trump tax cuts. According to estimates by the Heritage Foundation, the average household saves about $1,400 on its federal taxes because of those cuts. This means, in Moore's words, that "many working-class families now have a $6,000 higher after-tax, and after-inflation paycheck today."

Such progress won't continue if Americans fall into the grasp of would-be saviors such as Elizabeth Warren. She promises to cancel student loans, reduce rents, ban fracking, curb drilling, and much more. She even has, among her bag of many plans, a trick that would likely kill ride-sharing as well as other "gig" economy businesses. Liz Wolfe of *Reason* has exposed how Warren's proposal is a "federal version of California's A.B. 5, which classified Uber drivers and other gig workers as employees, not contractors." If she's elected, look for the gig to be up for the whole economy — but in a bad way.

These days, the Democrats' progressive healthcare fallback is "Medicare for All," and Warren has said that "I'm with Bernie" on that unbelievably expensive scheme. The decade-long cost of that has been estimated (conservatively) at $32 trillion. Considering the cost of all such fantasies, it's no wonder that Warren has been reticent to tell Middle Americans what a huge price tag she has planned for them. As the *Wall Street Journal* has put it, Warren

> could impose her wealth tax, her higher taxes on capital gains, her higher income taxes on the affluent, and she still wouldn't come close to paying for Medicare for All. And that's before her plans for new spending entitlements on child care, pre-K education, free college and so much more.
>
> The only way to pay for this is

AP Images

Real welfare benefits: National unemployment is at record-breaking lows, and the poor are getting pay raises, yet the non-stop cadence of leftists would have one believe that the economy is terrible and the poor are suffering because of the present administration.

> to raise taxes on the middle class, which is where the real money is. That's how government health care is financed in Europe, where the rich generally provide a smaller share of overall tax revenue than they do in the U.S. Democratic voters have to decide if they want a nominee who would eliminate private health insurance while dissembling about taxes.

Before Warren vowed that she would come up with some "specifics" to prove how the middle class would not be hurt, she was taking a bit of heat — as were those advising her (and Sanders) about why the rich need to be soaked: authors Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman.

Boston University economist Laurence Kotlikoff has taken apart their new book, *The Triumph of Injustice: How the Rich Dodge Taxes and How to Make Them Pay*. As noted, the book has been used as ammunition for those calling for even higher taxation on those at the top. The authors misrepresent how much those with high incomes already do pay. Their biggest mistake, says Kotlikoff (who is also president of Economic Security Planning), is "to focus on gross, not net, taxes. They ignore transfer payments, like Social Security, which are disproportionately paid to the poor. In doing so, they mistake language for economics."

(Other critics of the book — including Howard Gleckman, a senior fellow in the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center at the Urban Institute — have pointed out that the authors also "left out refundable tax credits like the earned income tax credit (EITC) and the child tax credit (CTC)." This distorts comparisons between those with higher and lower incomes.)

The essential message of the Berkeley authors is that the current tax system is flat, not a progressive one. Kotlikoff demonstrates otherwise. Far from being flat, he writes (in this case using a 40-year-old as an example), "the net tax rate facing middle age Americans rises rapidly with their resources — from negative 46.4% for the bottom 20% to positive 34.5% for the top 1%."

Those in the middle, already supporting way too much government, would face a huge tax increase if we were saddled with the grab-bag of plans favored by the leading Democratic candidates. These proposals, including the Green New Deal, single-payer healthcare, and more, would total the equivalent of 21 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, as calculated by Brian Riedl, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. As Riedl has said,

> Increasing federal spending by 21 percent of GDP to fund Democratic socialism — even after slashing defense — would require either a 55 percent payroll tax increase, or [a] 115 percent value-added tax, according to CBO [Congressional Budget Office] data.

No Democrat who expects to be elected will admit this. This is, indeed, why progressives lie about the situation.

Economic historian Phil Magness also disputes the figures that Warren/Sanders favorites Saez and Zucman employ when discussing the tax burden of the top one percent. Writing for the American Institute for Economic Research, Magness shows that, while Saez and Zucman "place the top 1 percent's *total* tax burden (federal, state, and local) at around 30 percent of its income in 2016 (the latest year available for comparison in both series), the CBO's estimate for federal taxes alone is actually higher at 33.3 percent."

Even Jason Furman, who was the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Obama administration, has acknowledged that American high-income earners do in fact pay at a higher rate than low-income earners (even with adding the somewhat more regressive levels of state and local taxation).

Progressives apparently can't even be honest about the progressive nature of taxation in this country: The United States, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), has the most progressive household taxes among developed countries.

In trying to sell their socialist snake-oil panaceas, big-government politicians are employing biased academics peddling misleading elixirs spiked with spurious assertions. It may not be polite to call them liars — but they sure live on the wrong side of the facts. ■

— William P. Hoar

BY JOE WOLVERTON, II, J.D.

Schiff Impeachment Inquiry Secrecy Is a Modern Star Chamber

Representative Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) is bypassing the Constitution altogether in his quest to impeach President Donald Trump.

Schiff is a Harvard Law School graduate who was tapped by Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to be the head of an inquiry into whether the president's dealings with Ukraine rise to the level of an impeachable offense.

Adam Schiff
AP Images

In one major response, Republicans tried to get the House of Representatives to approve a resolution censuring Schiff for manufacturing "a false retelling of the conversation between President Trump and President Zelensky [of Ukraine]" that "had no relationship to the call itself." The resolution, which was killed on a party line vote on October 21, also stated:

> Whereas, these actions of Chairman Schiff misled the American people, bring disrepute upon the House of Representatives, and make a mockery of the impeachment process, one of this chamber's most solemn constitutional duties;
>
> Whereas, for more than two years, Chairman Schiff has spread false accusations that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia;
>
> Whereas, on March 20, 2017, then-Ranking Member Schiff read out false allegations from the Steele dossier accusing numerous Trump associates of colluding with Russia;
>
> Whereas, then-Ranking Member Schiff falsely claimed in a March 2017 interview to have "more than circumstantial evidence" of collusion with Russia;
>
> Whereas, then-Ranking Member Schiff negotiated with Russian comedians whom he believed to be Ukrainian officials to obtain materials to damage the President of the United States politically;
>
> Whereas, according to a *New York Times* article on October 2, 2019, Chairman Schiff's committee staff met with the whistleblower prior to the filing of his complaint and staff members communicated the content of the complaint to Chairman Schiff;
>
> Whereas Chairman Schiff concealed his dealings with the whistleblower from the rest of the Intelligence Committee, and when asked directly in a television interview whether he had any contact with the whistleblower, he lied to the American people and said, "we have not spoken directly with the whistleblower."
>
> Whereas members of the Intelligence Committee have lost faith in his objectivity and capabilities as Chairman, with every Republican member on the Committee having signed a letter calling for his immediate resignation as Chairman;
>
> Whereas Chairman Schiff has hindered the ability of the Intelligence Committee to fulfill its oversight responsibilities of the Intelligence Community, an indispensable pillar of our national security.

The resolution against Schiff was sponsored by Representative Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), who wrote in an op-ed published by Fox News on October 15, "Rep. Adam Schiff, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the leftists who are attacking President Trump — and by extension everyone who voted for and supports him — have managed to sink to a new low. On the scale of credibility, they are a minus-10. If they yelled fire, you would stay seated."

Biggs went on to describe Schiff's inquiry as a "witch hunt," and stated that Schiff had "dissembled about whether he or his staff met with the whistleblower leaker before an official complaint was filed. He is not following the rules of the House. He has excluded some members of the House from sitting in on the proceedings, and he now has said that the whistleblower will not be called to testify."

Biggs is right.

While Schiff is certainly within the bounds of the powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to inquire into the president's behavior and whether that behavior rises to the level of "high crimes and misdemeanors," he is not authorized by the Constitution to conduct secret meetings that exclude representatives who oppose his efforts to remove the president.

Due process is an aspect of Anglo-American justice that is of ancient date and is critical to the concept of justice.

According to the reports of the running of his "inquiry," much of what Schiff is doing sounds very similar to the Star Chamber, an English court of the 14th to 17th centuries that met in secret, with no record of indictments, no identification of witnesses, and no transcript of the proceedings.

Eventually this court was used as a political weapon, a way for the king and the Parliament to persecute their enemies and keep the dirty details hidden from the public.

The American people deserve better: They deserve the truth. ■

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